



**CITY OF BOULDER
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: November 2, 2023

AGENDA TITLE

Consideration of a motion to accept the October 12th, 2023 Study Session Summary regarding the Chautauqua Access Management Program (CAMP) Update.

PRESENTER(S)

Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, City Manager
Natalie Stiffler, Director of Transportation & Mobility
Cris Jones, Director of Community Vitality
Dan Burke, Director of Open Space and Mountain Parks
Valerie Watson, Transportation Planning Manager
Chris Hagelin, Principal Planner, Transportation & Mobility
Devin Joslin, Principal Traffic Engineer, Transportation & Mobility
Samantha Bromberg, Senior Project Manager, Community Vitality
Frances Boulding, Recreation and Cultural Stewardship Senior Manager, Open Space and Mountain Parks

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the October 12th study session and presentation on the Chautauqua Access Management Program (CAMP) Evaluation was to receive feedback from the City Council on the program's future. CAMP is a multidepartment effort under the Access Management and Parking Strategies (AMPS) program and includes staff from Community Vitality (CV), Transportation & Mobility (T&M), and Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP), and a wide variety of partners and stakeholders. CAMP began in 2017 to address parking, access, and livability issues at the historic park and in the surrounding residential area. After a successful pilot in 2017, CAMP was extended to

operate until the end of 2023 under BRC 2-2-21. As part of the 2023 work plan, staff conducted a formal evaluation of the CAMP program and provided recommendations to boards and council on whether to continue the program and if continued, potential changes to the program.

Based on data, questionnaire findings, and consultation with stakeholders and partners, staff recommend that the city continue CAMP with some anticipated changes and some possible modifications about which staff sought council's input on utility in evaluating further.

Anticipated changes include:

- Improved micromobility access with a permanent BCycle station installed at Chautauqua and Lime e-scooter access with geofencing technology used to manage e-scooter operation and parking at and around Chautauqua.
- Changes in vehicle parking signage to improve clarity on when and how to pay to park.
- Updating of HOP to Chautauqua routing to optimize ridership and provide access from new locations.
- Possible changes to remote lots for the Park-to-Park shuttle because of planned construction at New Vista High School.

Possible modifications to the CAMP program, on which staff sought council's input include:

- Implementation of the city's Performance-based Parking policies at Chautauqua and in the adjacent North Chautauqua Neighborhood Parking Permit (NPP) area to adjust parking rates based on utilization.
- Establishment of a commuter parking permit program in the North Chautauqua NPP for Chautauqua employees.
- Use of parking revenue to fund additional transportation demand management (TDM) benefits for Chautauqua employees, such as subsidized BCycle memberships or additional vanpool incentives.

Staff also recommend conducting additional research and analysis to assess the feasibility of moving beyond the current "park-n-ride" model -- with free shuttles operating from remote lots -- to a model that provides direct transit access to Chautauqua. Analysis of data staff has received from stakeholders, employees, nearby residents, and partners indicates a desire of continuing CAMP and a desire to see that the CAMP season (now currently operating on weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day) be expanded to more months of the year and days of the week to continually manage parking demand. However, under the current park-n-ride model, expansion is difficult due to the need to access Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) and University of Colorado, Boulder (CU) parking lots. While the city can lease access to these parking lots during the summer and on weekends, access to these parking lots is not feasible during the school year and on weekdays. With a model based on direct transit access to Chautauqua, the city could manage parking through pricing while providing a convenient multimodal option and potentially coordinate with Boulder County to develop a more

holistic and interconnected Trailhead Access Management Program as part of the AMPS program.

At the study session on October 12, 2023, council unanimously supported the continuation of CAMP with staff's planned changes. The council also indicated support for the sunset clause being removed from the ordinance so that CAMP will continue indefinitely.

About the potential modifications, the council conducted straw polls.

- Support to investigate the use of performance-based pricing for parking rates was 6-3.
- Support for providing access to commuter permits in the North Chautauqua NPP was 7-2.
- Support for using parking revenue to provide additional TDM benefits to employees was 7-2.

All nine council members were in support of a feasibility study to assess the viability of moving beyond the park-n-ride model to provide direct transit access to the park under the Trail Access Management Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Motion Language:

Motion to accept the October 12, 2023 Study Session Summary regarding the Chautauqua Access Management Program (CAMP) Update.

BOARD AND COMMISSION FEEDBACK

Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT)

The OSBT provided input on September 13, 2023, on staff's presentation and recommendations. Overall, the OSBT generally is supportive of CAMP continuing with the anticipated changes but did express concerns about some of the possible modifications. OSBT does not recommend using performance-based pricing, but the board is in favor of including commuter permits in the NPP and using parking revenue to fund additional TDM benefits for Chautauqua employees. The board also would like to see safety considerations, improvements and programs related to enhanced micromobility access to the park.

The OSBT is in favor of staff conducting further research in exploring options beyond the park-n-ride model and to provide direct transit access to the park. At this time, OSBT expressed concerns about expanding the CAMP season by month or day of week due to limited survey data and anticipating the possible impacts on different parts of the

community or under-represented groups. Staff feels that addressing these concerns would be critical components of the future study.

The full motion by the board:

The Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) moved to include a recommendation in the City Council packet on the Chautauqua Area Management Plan (CAMP) program. The Board understands the importance of the CAMP program and is generally supportive of renewing the program as is but has concerns about potential modifications to the program. The Board believes that more complete and inclusive information is necessary before it can provide further guidance on the fairness, utility and comprehensiveness of the current and proposed Chautauqua access program.

1. The OSBT supports the concept of allowing additional NPP permits to be made available to employees.
2. The OSBT has concerns about expanding the season, number of days per week and increasing per-hour pricing based on limited survey data and details provided about alternative modes.
3. The OSBT requests that safe routes are established that direct Boulder BCycle riders and scooters off of Baseline and instead through safer streets through the neighborhood south of Baseline.
4. The board supports the staff recommendation that the city conduct a feasibility study into providing direct transit access to Chautauqua. This study would be irrespective of a proposed expansion of the CAMP season, although it could inform the benefits and impacts of an expanded CAMP season.
5. The Board needs more detailed information to explain the basis or justification for the proposed adjustments and explanations of anticipated impacts on the various groups included in the surveys and those groups omitted or underrepresented in the surveys.

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

The TAB is in favor of staff's recommendations to continue CAMP with anticipated changes and possible modifications. TAB did not exclude any of the possible modifications. TAB is also in support of further exploration to expand CAMP beyond the current park-n-ride model to provide direct transit access to the park under future Trailhead Access Management Program efforts.

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Summarized in October 12, 2023 council study session memorandum.

BACKGROUND

CAMP is a multidepartment effort under the Access Management and Parking Strategies (AMPS) program and includes staff from Community Vitality (CV), Transportation & Mobility (T&M), and Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP), and a wide variety of partners and stakeholders. CAMP began in 2017 to address parking, access, and livability issues at the historic park and in the surrounding residential area. After a successful pilot program, the Council directed staff to operate the CAMP program through 2023 and then to conduct an evaluation of the program.

The purpose of the CAMP evaluation is to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the CAMP program compared to the original goals and objectives of the program – to manage parking demand and provide multimodal access for visitors, employees, and residents, and address livability concerns;
- Develop staff recommendations based on data analysis and stakeholder input for boards and council to consider for the future of the CAMP program;
- Inform the crafting and adoption of necessary ordinances related to Council direction;
- Inform the development of an implementation framework based on Council guidance; and
- Set a foundation for future Trail Access Management Programs and evaluation of effectiveness.

Findings of the CAMP evaluation are provided in the October 12th Study Session memo.

ANALYSIS

Following the staff presentation, council members asked clarifying question before moving through the components of staff's recommendations on the future of CAMP.

Council members asked for clarification on:

- The impact of allowing dogs on the shuttle
- Support for continuing CAMP beyond the residents of the NPP.
- A description of what direct transit access would look like and how it would operate.
- Bicycle rack supply at the park.
- Whether or not CAMP was still considered a pilot or program.

Council member feedback included:

- A recommendation to create additional marketing to promote the Park-to-Park shuttle.
- Support for extending service up Flagstaff Road and to look at parking demand impacts and management needs at other trailheads like Sanitas and Shanahan Ridge.
- Installing additional bike racks at the park.

- Support of expanding micromobility access to the park while also addressing safety concerns.
- There was mixed support by council members for charging more to park at Chautauqua, but overall support for investigating the use of performance-based pricing. Concern was expressed at charging the public at large for parking to access Chautauqua while nearby residents are able to access by foot.
- General support of looking at providing more direct transit access to the park and other trailheads.
- There was mixed support of expanding the CAMP season, but strong support for conducting a feasibility study on moving beyond the park-n-ride model.

At the study session, council unanimously supported the continuation of CAMP with staff's planned changes. The council also indicated support for the sunset clause being removed from the ordinance so that CAMP will continue indefinitely.

About the potential modifications, the council conducted straw polls.

- Support to investigate the use of performance-based pricing for parking rates was 6-3.
- Support for providing access to commuter permits in the North Chautauqua NPP was 8-1.
- Support for using parking revenue to provide additional TDM benefits to employees was 7-2.

All nine council members were in support of a feasibility study to assess the viability of moving beyond the park-n-ride model to provide direct transit access to the park under the Trail Access Management Program.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will design the 2024 CAMP program based on Council direction received at the October 12th Study Session and inform boards and council with that plan prior to implementation during the 2024 season.

Staff will conduct further research in the feasibility of moving CAMP beyond the park-n-ride model to improve access to the park under the Trail Access Management Program. This study is likely to start in 2024 and into 2025.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None