

# A CITY FOR EVERYONE

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A Citizen-Centered Transition Report  
Prepared for Mayor Lauren McLean

## TRANSITION COMMITTEES:

A CLEAN CITY FOR EVERYONE

OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

ENGAGING EVERYONE

MOVEMENT FOR EVERYONE

A HOME FOR EVERYONE

A MORE EQUITABLE CITY  
FOR EVERYONE

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## DEAR BOISE:

When I set out to set priorities that would guide our new administration's early days in City Hall, I did so not just with our community in mind, but with our community. What none of us could possibly have known at the time is that we would be faced with a global pandemic that would threaten our families, jobs and community. I've been incredibly proud in recent weeks to see Boiseans come together to respond to the tremendous challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. And I'm grateful to the hard work of the community members that created these transition reports, completing their work prior to the public health crisis our city, state and nation are currently experiencing. Today I find many of their recommendations even more important, because we'll need bold and urgent solutions to housing, transit and economic opportunity to help our community recover.

The citizen volunteers that made up my transition committees gave dozens of hours of their own time, meeting weekly for months to discuss and plan the next steps for our city. They hail from all walks of life and from diverse backgrounds, from every corner of Boise, and were asked to serve for their insight, expertise and passion for improving our community. Boise City staff supported each committee, remaining on hand to answer questions and provide additional data. I thank city staff for their collaborative spirit and willingness to look at familiar issues with new eyes. I want to thank each committee member for pulling together to do your part for our city. I am deeply grateful.

What follows is an executive summary of the transition committees' work: the reports include a series of recommendations to guide the short term, first year and first four years of my term as mayor. The content of the reports is not altered because I believed it was important to share with the community the ideas from their neighbors as presented. As asked, each committee aimed high and dreamed big. It's a tall order and inspiring to read these reports; and now I'll prioritize given the community health crisis we're facing, its economic and social impacts and the steps we must take to ensure our community recovers and is more resilient than ever. Many of the issues we discussed during the election campaign – increased economic opportunity; housing policy to meet the needs of our residents; transportation to connect us with jobs; and the innovation that climate change requires – will form the basis of our recovery.

We recognize the profound impact that this virus has had on our community and economy. Working together to address affordability, opportunity and transportation are even more important, while we also ensure we're advocating – together – for tools from the state and

## A LETTER FROM MAYOR LAUREN McLEAN

federal government to support our economic recovery. Through this work, I believe it's possible to achieve a regional plan for economic growth, a regional plan for transportation and a blueprint for a thriving economy and region.

The transition committees recognized that all challenges are linked and that our solutions must be regional. We can't talk about access to affordable housing without talking about wages; we can't talk about clean air to breathe without talking about regional transit. None of these issues has a magic bullet solution, but they all can be tackled with innovation, vigor and a willingness to collaborate in new ways across an entire valley.

Here in Boise, Idaho, we believe it is possible to foster a 21st-century city for everyone, powered by clean, renewable energy, with shared prosperity across all neighborhoods, and a commitment to transparency and openness in government. And given the state of affairs today, these issues take on greater importance as key parts of our recipe for recovery.

As is often the case, in the absence of something, you realize its importance. I miss dearly the opportunity to come together in common cause, rolling up our sleeves to work together towards our shared vision of Boise. In the months ahead, I look forward to the opportunity to reconvene as a community, to recognize the importance of being together and to celebrate what we love about Boise. Until then, we are focused on this important work in new ways. And daily I am reminded to be hopeful: when we focus together on the values we share and the community we love, there is nothing we can't accomplish.

I am committed to finding opportunity in the challenges we're experiencing and to keeping that special spark of Boise alive, working together with each of you to help shape and protect this singular place for every generation that follows.

I welcome your partnership. Let's do this together, Boise.

With great gratitude,



## BACKGROUND

In order to prepare for the transition of a new administration, Mayor-elect McLean appointed community leaders from all aspects of the community. Six committees were formed to create recommendations in line with creating a city for everyone. Transition committees were made up of seventy-one residents, were supported by city staff and worked between December 2019 and April 2020 reviewing data, consulting experts, researching past and future policies to create more than 350 recommendations. These recommendations will help inform the actions of the mayor throughout her term in office.

The content of the recommendations has not been changed and the committee reports were drafted in large part before the COVID-19 public health crisis. You can access the full report for each committee on the city's website<sup>1</sup>.

These detailed reports include a series of recommendations to guide the short term, first year and first four years of Mayor Lauren McLean's first term. They provide invaluable feedback, resources and recommendations that will all come together to provide a solid vision and strong regional action plan as the City of Boise moves into recovery and resilience - while creating a true city for everyone.

The path these recommendations paint is based on community needs, vision and a strong hope for the future in which everyone can find an affordable place to live, has a good job, where our commutes are short and our air is clean. These transition recommendations for action will also help protect beloved open spaces just as quickly as sustainable development takes place. They offer strong suggestions on how to create a City Hall that is responsive to and represents all Boiseans, where all voices are heard.

Many of the issues - increased economic opportunity, housing policy to meet the needs of all our residents, transportation to connect us with jobs and the innovation that climate change requires – will form the basis of our recovery as we plan for a resilient Boise.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.cityofboise.org/transition-reports](http://www.cityofboise.org/transition-reports)

## TRANSITION COMMITTEES

### TRANSITION STAFF

Melanie Flitton Folwell

Zach Reider

### A CLEAN CITY FOR EVERYONE

Amber Bieg, Co-Chair

Kathryn McConnell, Co-Chair

Steve Burgos, City of Boise

David Arkoosh

Brittany Brand

Bryant Jones

Heather Kimmel

Dave Krick

Rodo Leone

Jyoni Tetsuro Shuler

Brandy Wilson

Angie Wood

### ENGAGING EVERYONE

Hannah Brass Greer, Co-Chair

Maria Weeg, Co-Chair

Carrie Hall, City of Boise

Alicia Cassarino

Caitlin Copple Masingill

Diana de Jesus

Leigh Ann Dufferrena

Brady Fuller

Antonio Hernandez

Marisa Keith

Andrew Little

Maricela Morales Deveney

Fidel Nshombo

Sara Peyton

### A HOME FOR EVERYONE

Vanessa Fry, Co-Chair

Shellan Rodriguez, Co-Chair

Maureen Brewer, City of Boise

Wyatt Schroeder, City of Boise

Drew Alexander

Bart Cochran

Byron Folwell

Pete Gombert

Latonia Keith

Ali Rabe

Jerry Sturgill

Dana Zuckerman

## TRANSITION COMMITTEES

### OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

Gina Finley, Co-Chair

Deb Nelson, Co-Chair

Sean Keithly, City of Boise

Kibrom Milash

Charity Nelson

Kate Nelson

Skip Oppenheimer

Alexander Toeldte

### MOVEMENT FOR EVERYONE

Mat Erpelding, Co-Chair

Laila Kral, Co-Chair

Daren Fluke, City of Boise

Karen Gallagher, City of Boise

Kelli Badesheim

Clay Carley

Jeff Cilek

Kate Eldridge

Gene Gallegos

Maureen Gresham

Wally Hedrick

Greg Hill

Casey Jones

Kristen McGee

Matt Stoll

Diana Willis

### A MORE EQUITABLE CITY FOR EVERYONE

Kelly Miller, Co-Chair

Francisco Salinas, Co-Chair

Lana Graybeal, City of Boise

Chloe Ross, City of Boise

Maria Andrade

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Halima Hamud

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Emilie Jackson Edney

Mel Leviton

Jennifer Martinez

Jax Perez

Tai Simpson



## A CLEAN CITY FOR EVERYONE

Inherent in the desire to foster a clean city for all is the recognition that all residents have a fundamental right to equal access to parks and recreation facilities and services; clean air and water; transportation and housing; and the business, economic, cultural and natural areas that make Boise a thriving community.

Boise has a bright path forward. By prioritizing open spaces, parks and gathering places, addressing resilience and climate planning, and embracing clean energy, effective land use, clean water programs and zero waste policies we ensure Boise is green and vibrant for all generations.

By focusing on how we engage with the public, by paying strong attention to shared public health issues, by reducing the inequitable distribution of environmental ills, by securing equitable access to all residents, we ensure that everyone, including those traditionally underrepresented, have a voice in the city.



## ENGAGING EVERYONE

It's important that all Boiseans are heard. It's our vision that including unique and vibrant voices to the conversation creates enormous value for us all. It's also critical to have a wide range of outlooks and cultures considered while we are creating a more inclusive Boise for everyone.

With a focus on changing how we think about engaging people, building trust - with all communities and individuals - and proactively seeking a wide variety of input from all residents, a communal voice can be heard in future policy decisions and city planning.

Fostering greater public involvement in the issues of the day, events or in planning policy is crucial. With the emphasis on empowering, engaging, informing and including everyone, the recommendations call for increasing accessibility for everyone, encouraging questions, building in feedback loops and creating personalized communication channels with the mayor and her staff.





## A HOME FOR EVERYONE

The vision of housing for all is not an easy task, but it's important to get it right if we're building a Boise for all. Everyone deserves a home. And we're going to do everything we can to ensure that everyone in the city has a place to live.

Housing is not just a City of Boise issue, it's a regional issue. Addressing the housing crisis will require engagement from a diverse group of stakeholders from across the community. Current efforts by the City of Boise create a solid foundation from which we can make genuine plans to reach our goals. While much has been done, there is always more to accomplish and these recommendations provide a well-defined road map toward success.

Strategies toward this lofty goal include creating an inventory of housing assets, financial resources and opportunities; spurring on housing innovation; supporting innovative financing efforts; launching a public-private partnership initiative; creating new housing; and completing a zoning code rewrite that fits our current reality.

Other tactics which can be applied toward solving this complex regional problem include creating a regional housing partnership; conducting education and outreach; and putting homelessness prevention measures into place. Launching an education and outreach campaign, preserving affordable housing and initiating a landlord and property manager partnership are also strong additions to the committee's recommended courses of action.



## OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

What makes Boise... Boise? Boise is increasingly made of diverse cultures, demographics and economic factors. It's important to recognize that special spark that we share, and how our distinct community makeup can help us take advantage of unique opportunities to improve access to economic opportunities for everyone.

With a focus on connecting workers at all levels to meaningful jobs, the recommendations outline ways in which Boise can develop an educated workforce, create jobs for all skill levels and facilitate access to employment for all. Education is a key component to Boise's economic success and to providing opportunities for everyone. Job creation also is fundamental to providing economic opportunities for everyone. Recommendations include support for business start-ups and expansion, as well as attraction of businesses that reflect Boise's character. And we must be intentional about inclusivity and equality.

## MOVEMENT FOR EVERYONE

Transportation is tied to our quality of life in so many ways - our commutes, air quality and how we approach an achievable clean energy plan. A diversified transportation infrastructure system will create equity for all, improve safety and provides choices to suit all lifestyles.

Several recommendations were put forth that revolve around effective community engagement, improving multimodal safety, regional relationship building and considering transportation alternatives. Building mutually beneficial relationships valley wide will be key to gaining significant ground on transportation issues so a system can be put into place that serves Boiseans and the entire Treasure Valley for generations to come.

Specific areas addressed including maximizing neighborhood plans; updating zoning ordinances; supporting micro-mobility; bolstering the City Go Boise program; enhancing the accessibility and public transit frequency; making Boise a safe and accessible place for all people; maximizing access for parking; partnering with businesses and research opportunities; integrating Boise State University with downtown Boise; prioritizing urban pathway extensions and collaborating with policy makers.

## A MORE EQUITABLE CITY FOR EVERYONE

The City of Boise is deeply committed to be a place that is equitable, safe and thriving for everyone and deepens this resolve by working to create policies and programming that builds meaningful relationships with vulnerable communities facing injustice and inequality.

Key values which lay the foundation for a successful path toward achieving equality for all people of Boise include fostering transformative leadership at all levels to lead cultures in which everyone is valued, safe and can thrive. Accessibility should be addressed through creating culturally diverse policies and programming, all with an eye toward how they impact communities subject to historic inequities.

The City of Boise hopes to become a model for the rest of Idaho and the country by enacting and embodying practices, policies and procedures that build the future for our children and families.

Communities include, but are not limited to, black, indigenous, Latinx and people of color, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQIA+ or non-binary, and people who are immigrants, undocumented or resettled through the refugee process. This is an opportunity to create meaningful reforms for everyone to be welcome and included.



[CITYOFBOISE.ORG](http://CITYOFBOISE.ORG)