

Daily Camera



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Boulder City Council

Some members question Dial 2.0

Friend: New metrics appear to conflict with masking, distancing guidelines

By Deborah Swearingen
Staff Writer

Some Boulder City Council members expressed concerns about the state's plan to reconfigure its color-coded coronavirus dial that would relax the metric requirements that dictate business

operating capacity levels in counties, depending on the level of virus transmission.

According to reporting from the Denver Post, which outlines the changes that were announced Saturday, to qualify for Level Orange — the current level for

most Colorado counties, and the third most restrictive on the dial — a county must have an incidence rate of new positive COVID-19 cases between 175 and 350 per 100,000 people. Any higher than 350 per 100,000, and a county qualifies for Level Red. Under Dial 2.0, counties would qualify for Level Orange if their incidence rates climbed as high as 499 per 100,000. The current Level Red threshold is defined as

above 350 per 100,000 people, and in Dial 2.0 it would be bumped up to 500 per 100,000.

Boulder County's current two-week cumulative incidence is 282.4 per 100,000 people. Under Dial 2.0, counties with incidence rates between 100 per 100,000 people and 300 per 100,000 people would qualify for Level Yellow, according to a draft plan posted on the Colorado Department of Health and Environment's website.

The current dial also bases restrictions off of 14-day samples, and under Dial 2.0, that's set to change to seven days — meaning a county could more quickly move up or down the dial as its metrics change.

Councilmember Rachel Friend said she was grappling with the move to relax restrictions, while Boulder County Public Health continues to emphasize the

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Transportation

Funding shortfalls posing challenges



Timothy Hurst / Staff Photographer

A cyclist rides down the far-right eastbound lane of Table Mesa Drive that allows cyclists to use the entire lane on Tuesday at its intersection with Gillespie Drive in Boulder. The 2020 Boulder Transportation Report on Progress showed funding shortfalls affected the city's ability to meet a number of the objectives outlined in its transportation master plan.

Of eight objectives in master plan, five in danger of missing mark

By Deborah Swearingen
Staff Writer

Funding shortfalls in 2020 affected Boulder's ability to meet a number of the objectives outlined in the city's transportation master plan.

In the master plan, Boulder identified eight measurable objectives: vehicle miles traveled, mode share (a metric of efforts to reduce single-occupant

vehicle trips), climate, safety, vulnerable populations, transportation options, travel time and walkable neighborhoods. Of those, the city's 2020 report on progress indicates that five are either trending in the wrong direction or remained stable, though are not on track to meet the target.

For example, the city is not on track to meet its 2030 goals

of reducing single-occupant vehicle trips by residents and commuters; eliminating serious injury and fatal traffic crashes; and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the data lags, so Boulder in 2019 had 61 crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury, while it aims to have zero by 2030.

For the master plan goals

that remain off track or are trending in the wrong direction, transportation staff says a lack of funding largely is to blame.

The regressive nature of Boulder's transportation funding through sales tax revenue can be a challenge in a typical year, but the city said COVID-19 worsened the problem. The

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Prairie dog mitigation

Statement denouncing postcard message approved

Missive compared city's lethal tactics to Holocaust

By Deborah Swearingen
Staff Writer

Following outcry from the community, Boulder City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a statement denouncing the comparison of the city's lethal prairie dog mitigation tactics to the Holocaust that was made in an anonymous postcard sent to councilmembers.

"That comparison was unacceptable and harmful as are any and all endorsements of the views stated in that postcard. We explicitly reject false equivalencies that compare the Holocaust, the largest recorded genocide in modern human history, to other historical or current events," Councilmember Rachel Friend said on Tuesday, reading the statement in the meeting.

"Importantly, the reflexive use of such harmful comparisons degrades the significance and

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Weather

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A shower in the p.m.

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