

# **Northeast Transportation Connections Central 70 Summary**

## **April 14th, 2021**

### **Community Outreach**

#### **Outreach events / community meetings attended:**

- 2017: 50
- 2018: 43
- 2019: 59
- 2020: 61
- 2021: 18 (so far)

#### **Community Office Hours Held to date: 250**

#### **Covid Emergency Response:**

- To date we have sent out three newsletters direct-mailed to every household in the 80216 zip code (5,400 homes). Two newsletters were sent out in 2020, and so far one has been sent out in 2021, with two to three more mailings planned for this year. In the newsletters we highlight NETC's programs and resources, community partners' programs and resources, as well as COVID restriction information and resources available.
- NETC began distributing reusable cloth masks and hand sanitizer at all of our office hours for anyone in the community who may need them. We purchased these masks from the Sewing Coalition started by Councilwoman Ortega to help employ women in the GES community to sew masks during the pandemic.
- NETC acquired funding from Kiewit and partnered with GrowHaus, GES Coalition, and Birdseed Collective to get meat in two of their food box deliveries in December 2020. This was something that the community specifically identified and requested, as it was missing from their weekly food boxes provided by these partner organizations. Approximately 1,500 houses received meat in their food boxes due to these efforts.

Since this catalyst, GrowHaus has secured a supplier and periodically is able to offer meat in the boxes they give out weekly.

- We gave \$100 gift cards to families during the holidays to help with expenses. Families were identified through Swansea Elementary and Garden Place Academy. 50 families received gift cards through this effort.

### **Shuttles:**

- Grocery Shuttle: The shuttle picks up residents near their home then brings them to a choice of three different grocery stores that were identified by the community. On the way back the shuttle drops them at their house with their groceries. We have fully handed this program over to Focus Points to run as of Fall 2018. We will stay on to advise and help tweak the shuttle times as requested.

**The grocery shuttle is currently suspended by Focus Points due to COVID.**

### **Walking School Bus:**

- The Walking School Bus helps reduce the number of cars going to Swansea Elementary during peak traffic times and allows for safe, healthy alternatives to get children to school.
- It employs one coordinator from the community on stipend (who also helps with outreach) and four women from the school to walk kids on a weekly stipend.

2019-2020 School Year: 40 kids registered

- We were able to pay our walking school bus leaders through the end of the school year in 2020, even though the pandemic shut down the schools.

**This program is no longer active in 2021.**

## **Community Organization Support with Enterprise Vans:**

- We found that the vans used in the Activity Shuttle could be better utilized by offering them to community organizations that need help moving their participants around. The vans are used for a wide range of needs, including transporting seniors to help them participate in activities outside their neighborhoods, and helping schools conduct field trips and after-school activities.
- We suspended this program from March until June of 2020 because of COVID restrictions. In June 2020 we continued to offer vans for community organizations in need of transportation support. In the summer of 2020, GrowHaus used our vans to help kids with transportation needs participate in their summer camp. Most recently we have been supporting Globeville First RNO and GES Coalition get food boxes to housebound community members twice a month.

**To date 212 trips have been taken in our community shuttle.**

## **Monthly Passes:**

- Monthly passes are given to Globeville, Elyria, and Swansea community members who work full-time outside of the 80216 zip code and income qualify. This alleviates transportation costs for many who have to buy one-way tickets because they cannot afford a monthly discount ticket. It also helps deter people from driving in and out of the corridor to go to work.
- Starting in January of 2020 we have been paying full price for the monthly passes in order to reach more people, because of the restrictions put on the low income fare by RTD. The nonprofit reduced rate is being replaced by this program. However we have heard many concerns from the community about the limitations of the program and therefore elected to continue to give out passes free of charge to whomever fits within our criteria.
- 5/2020 Update: Before the COVID-19 pandemic we continued to give monthly passes to the community at the new cap of 41 people, since we are paying full prices for passes. In

the middle of April, RTD made all rides free to everyone, so monthly bus passes were not needed.

- 7/2020 Update: We resumed distributing passes in July 2020 once RTD reinstated their fares.

**To date this program has given out 1,520 monthly bus passes, saving the GES Community \$115,686 and reducing VMT by 170,836 miles.**

### **Day Passes:**

- In January of 2019 RTD discontinued the printing of day passes, and therefore we are no longer able to purchase them for the community. We are currently looking at other RTD products to offer the community members who do not qualify for the monthly pass.
- Update 10/2019: We are currently giving away one-way fare (3-hour transfer) passes to the community in lieu of the day passes we can no longer receive.

**To date \$17,000 worth of day passes / one-way 3-hour transfers have been given to the community, with another \$2,000 purchased to give out this year.**

### **Walking Programs:**

- In 2020 Walk2Connect served approximately 180 folks from the community, mostly families. To assist with COVID mitigation, Walk2Connect did a one-week delivery for elderly shut-ins after a community church group asked if they could help with household items. They made 37 deliveries. Items in the boxes included perishable food staples, hygiene items, and reusable cloth face masks.

**Community Walking Trips to date: 245**

## **Biking Programs:**

- We currently have 2 Bike Libraries up and running in Swansea — one at Prodigy Coffeehouse and one at Focus Points. The Libraries give community members access to bikes for a small yearly donation of \$20.
- In 2020 we partnered with Denver Bike Sharing to give out 350 former B-Cycles to community organizations. Organizations included: Growhaus, Families Against Violent Acts, Anythink Libraries, Street Fraternity, The Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being, Pauline-Robinson Library, East Colfax Neighborhood Association, Hidden Brook Apartments, Environmental Learning for Kids, Focus Points Family Resource Center, Americold Logistics, Mind Craft, Enshin Karate, Goose and Goat, and Stanley Marketplace.
- We have been working with Bikes Together and Second Chance Bike Shop to increase the number of kids' bikes at both Prodigy and Focus Points Bike Libraries, where we now have 10 kids' bikes at Focus Points and 5 kids' bikes at Prodigy to better accommodate our members.
- We are in the process of working with the community during the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to provide access to our bicycles. We have moved to a by-appointment-only model for our Bike Libraries.
- During the 2020 Bike Library season, April – October, we hired local community member Mick Hogan to operate and manage our Prodigy Bike Library. Mick was a huge asset to the program as he is well connected in the community. With Mick's bike mechanic experience he was able to open up the Bike Library to community members who needed their personal bikes fixed. He fixed over 40 community members' personal bikes over the summer.
- Through our Prodigy and Focus Points Bike Libraries and our reputation with biking in the community, we were approached by Bicycle Colorado and the Colorado Energy Office to help them reach low-income essential workers who could participate in the Can Do Colorado eBike mini-pilot program. Through this program we were able to get 13 individuals their very own eBike in exchange for reporting on their usage of the new eBikes. This program helped shape the roll-out of the 2021 eBike RFP that the Colorado Energy Office sent out early this year. NETC has also received a grant to upgrade our Bike Libraries with eBikes and open a 3rd eBike Library along the I-70 Corridor.

## **Bike Library press:**

Denver Streetsblog—article on the Grand Opening of the Focus Points Bike Library

<https://denver.streetsblog.org/2018/05/09/in-a-bike-share-desert-elyria-swanssea-bicycle-library-gives-kids-families-freedom-to-ride/>

CBS Channel 4—story and interview also featuring the Focus Points Bike Library

<https://denver.cbslocal.com/2018/05/24/bike-library-elyria-swanssea-central-70/>

Urban Land Conservancy—featured partner article on the Prodigy Bike Library.

<https://www.urbanlandc.org/announcements/coffee-shop-transportation-nonprofit-partner-bike-library/>

BikeStreets.com—featured a “low stress bike route” to the Prodigy Bike Library.

<https://www.bikestreets.com/get-the-map>

Bicycle Colorado’s Active Bike Corridor (ABC) routes is using our Prodigy Bike Library as a suggested starting point for the route on 35<sup>th</sup> Ave into downtown.

<https://biketoworkday.us/overview-map>

Bicycle Colorado added both the Focus Points Bike Library and the Prodigy Bike Library to their directory of bike resources on their website

<https://www.bicyclecolorado.org/about-bicycle-colorado/tourism-resources/>

## Business Outreach

### Incentives Program Overview:

The table below is a compilation of vehicle miles traveled reduction (VMTR) by time period and transportation mode:

<b>2020 VMTR</b>	328,197		<b>2021 VMTR</b>	39,856
Carpool	37,954		Carpool	30,598
Transit	25,883		Transit	945
Active	13,599		Active	822
Telework	35,072		Telework	6,758
E-Scooter	1,437		E-Scooter	0

In March alone, due to COVID-19, we witnessed the following changes in transportation usage:

#### March 2020 Program Reductions Compared to February 2020

Total VMTR **22.9%**

Carpool **20.3%**

Transit **44.8%**

Active **12.4%**

Telework **265.3%**

## Incentives: Dollar Amounts Provided to Employees

NETC has incentivized the GES business community by providing individual employees with the following dollar amounts of gift cards and bus-pass cost reductions:

2020	Totals	2021	Totals
Amazon	\$7,460.00	Amazon	\$1,200.00
King Soopers	\$2,460.00	King Soopers	\$220.00
Target	\$140.00	Target	\$0.00
Walmart	\$1,760.00	Walmart	\$180.00

Please note that since starting our business outreach programs we have eliminated the monthly transit pass incentive. RTD cut their funding for the program, and the cost of the program did not equal what we expected to get back in terms of VMTR.

## Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Totals
Total VMTR	42,317	41,130	31,706	16,854	23,028	25,931	26,722	23,112	22,749	26,450	22,994	25,205	328,197
Carpool Total	30,660	29,734	23,702	9,679	15,623	17,552	18,810	15,968	16,938	20,559	17,730	19,874	236,829
Transit Total	10,657	9,809	5,417	1,765	1,214	1,263	2,266	2,340	1,720	683	435	385	37,954
Active Total	966	1,279	1,120	328	686	1,637	2,350	1,604	1,095	1,432	565	536	13,599
Telework Total	34	308	1,125	4,544	4,155	5,026	3,018	3,143	2,862	3,294	3,694	3,869	35,072
E-Scooter	0	0	20	0	15	453	277	57	134	482	0	0	1,437.4
Drive	0	0	322	537	1,336	0	0	2,536	616	619	571	541	7,078

## Total VMT reduction from business outreach (all active transportation modes) 2020:

328,197 miles

## Total VMT reduction from business outreach to date (all active transportation modes):

878,422 miles

## Last Mile Shuttle Connections:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we ended service of the York Street Business Shuttle and the Peoria Street Community Shuttle on Friday, March 13, 2020.

## Current Business Shuttle

The marketing postcard below depicts the route of the current NETC business shuttle:

**Central 70**

**The NETC Shuttle Bus**

Get a **FREE** ride to/from the 40th & CO A Line Station!  
Simply call or text 720-336-0381 to request a **FREE** ride,  
please give an hour notice before you need your pickup.

**The Business Shuttle operates during these hours:**

Morning Shift.....	5:30am—1:00pm
Afternoon/Evening Shift.....	3:00pm—11:00pm

The Shuttle is brought to you by:  
**Northeast Transportation Connections**

**NETC**

The shuttle is provided as part of the Central 70 Project to ensure mobility in and around the highway's reconstruction.

[NETransportation.org](http://NETransportation.org)

In 2020 a total of 2,897 trips were taken on the business shuttles, even though the shuttle was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic from March 15, 2020 to May 31, 2020. NETC has increased ridership for the Business Shuttle over 20% from 2019 to 2021.

To date 3,000+ trips have been taken on the business shuttle.

**Other Items:**

We are surveying both our employees (those with whom we have direct email contact) and organization coordinators to find out how businesses have reacted to the COVID pandemic.

We are working on YouTube, Facebook, and Bulletin communications to better interact with our constituents about timely topics such as: Safe COVID-Era Commuting Practices, Bike to Work, Bringing employees onboard with NETC commuting incentives, etc.