Connecting Aurora, the city of Aurora's first-ever multimodal transportation master plan, was adopted by the Aurora City Council earlier this year following nearly two years of robust public engagement and community outreach that included more than a million touchpoints.

Aurora's first citywide multimodal transportation master plan identifies nearly 1,000 projects, programs and policies to support and shape a multimodal future for the city of more than 418,000 people.

Since spring 2024, the city examined and collected community feedback on how to better connect Aurora residents, employees and visitors to the city's places. Based on that input, the plan outlines improvements to make traveling in Aurora safer and more convenient for everyone who walks, rolls, bikes, drives or takes transit, with a vision for a healthy, sustainable and economically strong community.

To help shape Aurora’s long-term transportation vision, the city explored different future scenarios ranging from a car-focused city to one built around walkable neighborhoods. Each scenario was tested against community goals like safety, connectivity, sustainability and reliability to understand its impacts.

Through this process, which included community input, the Place-Oriented City emerged as the preferred vision. It represents a balanced system that allows driving but makes walking, biking, and riding transit safer, more reliable and more convenient, while supporting vibrant, people-centered neighborhoods.

To support this vision, the plan identifies a set of visionary networks to define the long-term structure of Aurora’s transportation system.

The networks illustrate how walking, biking, transit, driving and freight movement should connect across the city to create safe, comfortable and accessible options for people of all ages and abilities. They provide a roadmap to guide future investments, align policies and design decisions, and ensure that incremental improvements collectively build a connected multimodal system that advances Aurora’s place-oriented goals.

With the adoption of Connecting Aurora, the city is focused on implementing five strategies to turn the vision into reality, including creating and amending documents to support plan implementation; creating an online GIS system to map networks and projects and use in association with the development review process; focusing implementation efforts in strategic areas for meaningful impact; devising a system for ongoing community input to advance the city’s transportation system; and measuring progress through a dashboard and annual assessments.

Overall, the plan identifies 70-plus intersection improvements, over 25 bridge and interchange improvements, 100-plus new and upgraded signals, over 10-plus street capacity upgrades, over 300 miles of bikeways, more than 100 miles of sidewalks and enhancements, 300-plus bike and pedestrian crossings, and over 20 complete street transit corridors.

While resources are limited, Connecting Aurora identifies multiple funding pathways, including leveraging local dollars, pursuing state and federal grants, and partnering with regional agencies and private developers.

The plan recognizes flexibility and adaptability as important, with emerging technologies, new travel behaviors and shifting economic conditions potentially shaping future needs. Metrics and ongoing evaluation will play a central role in tracking progress, with regular reporting to ensure transparency and accountability.

To review the entire plan and community engagement materials, visit EngageAurora.org/ConnectingAurora.