WELCOME TO DENVER

(Virtual) Student Edition

Master of Urban and Regional Planning

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

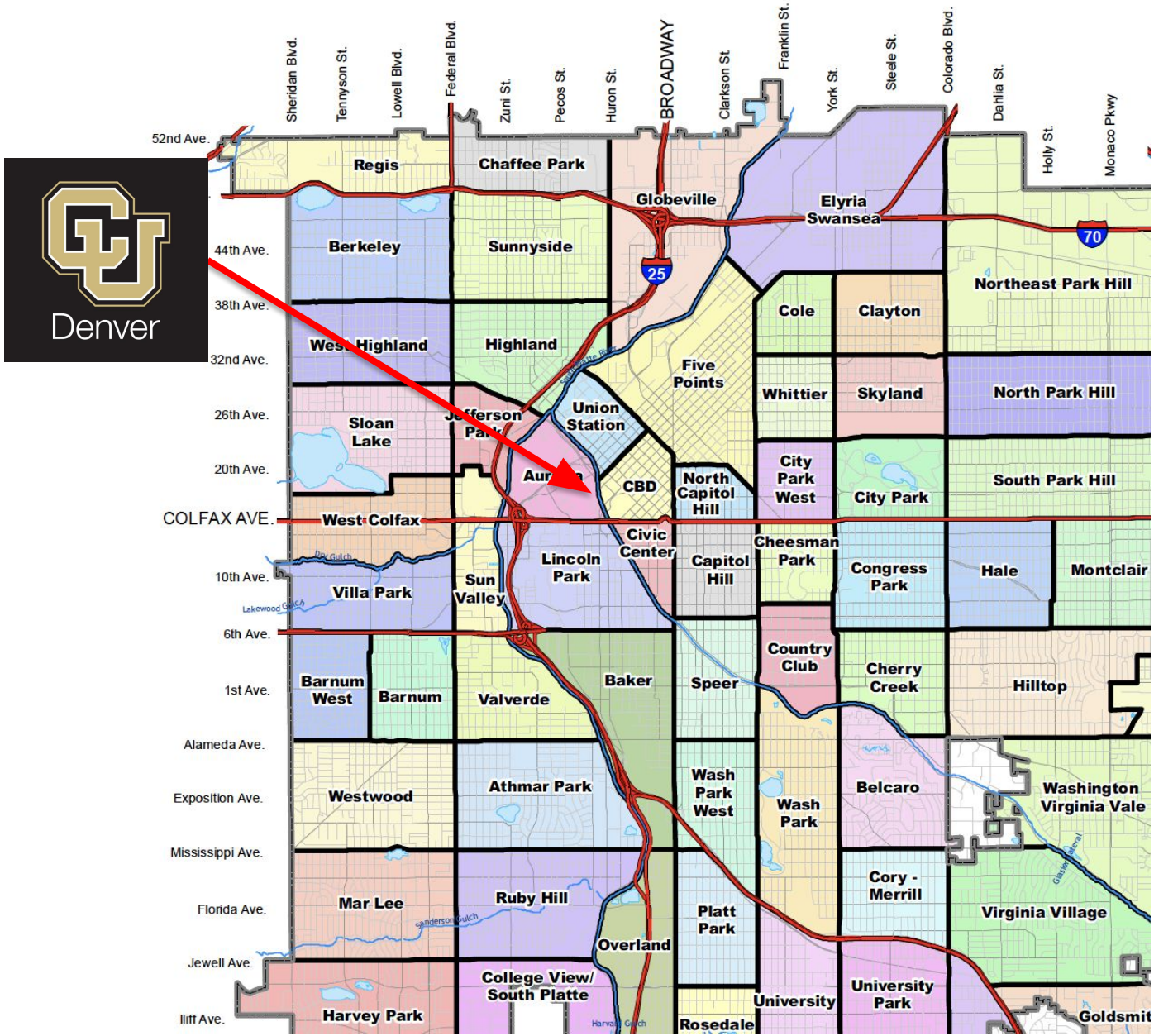
APAS CO

American Planning Association Colorado

Student Chapter

Living in Denver

Denver's Neighborhoods

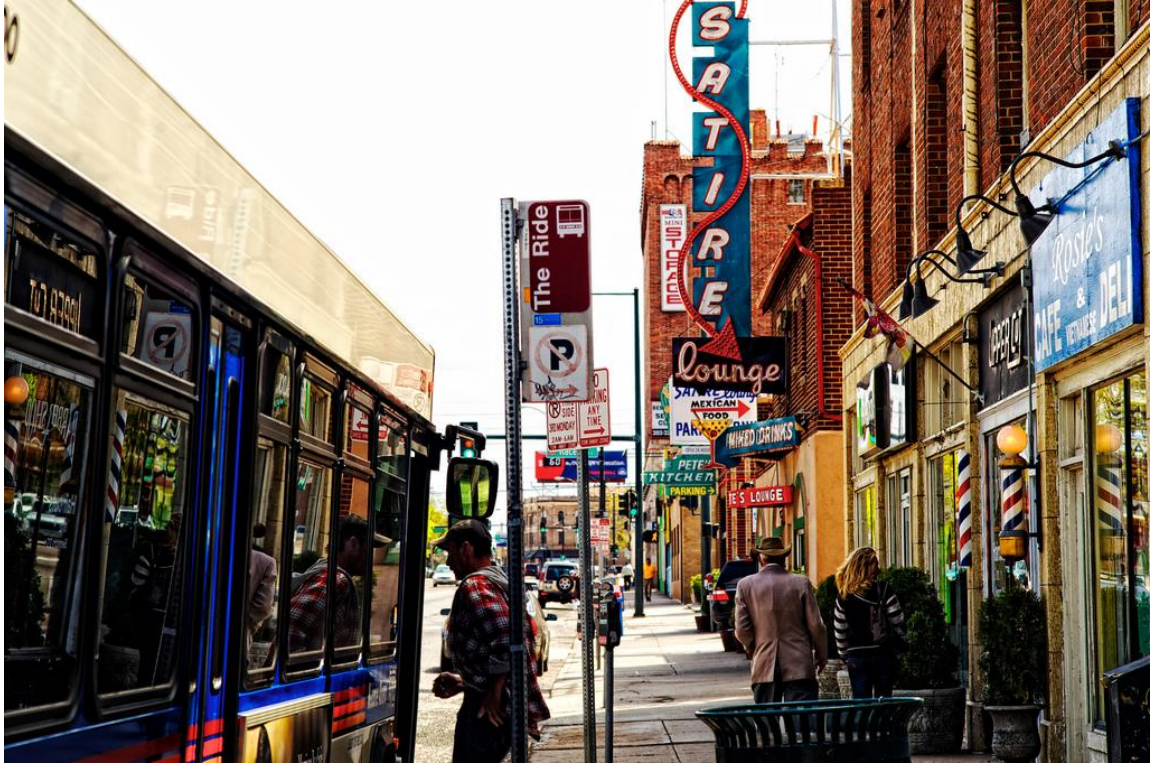


Cap Hill
Highland
Baker
Wash Park
Sloan Lake
City Park
Congress Park
Cheesman Park
Curtis Park/Five Points
Jefferson Park

10,000 Acres of Urban & Mountain Parks

Capitol Hill (aka Cap Hill)

- Densest neighborhoods in Denver
- HUGE millenial/Gen Z population
- Grocery Stores
- Bars, restaurants, and shops
- Walkable and bikeable
- Close to Downtown and East Colfax Ave
- More affordable, but older buildings
- Nearby neighborhoods have similar vibes (Uptown, Cheesman, Congress Park, etc.)
- Known to be difficult to find street parking



Highland

Formerly "The Northside"

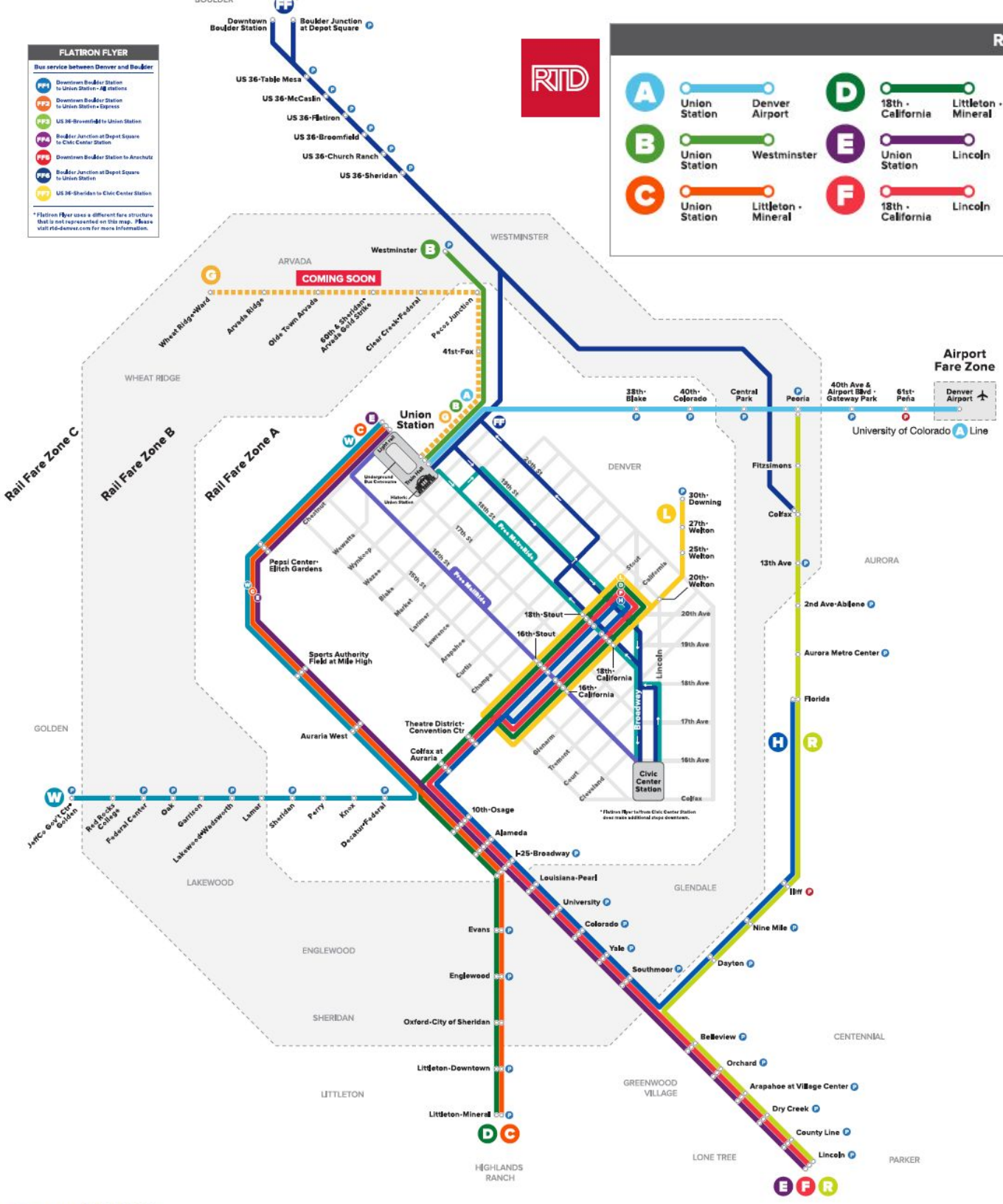
- More expensive
- Variety of housing options: apartment complexes, duplexes, homes that rent out individual rooms
- Fun shops and good restaurants
- Little Man ice cream is a true Denver establishment

RiNo

- “Trendy”
- Close to downtown
- Larimer Street has lots of options for entertainment, breweries, etc.
- Has a bit of a “party” vibe on weekends
- A bit expensive
- More affordable neighborhoods close by: Five Points, Cole, Globeville and Elyria-Swansea

Getting Around: Transit

- RTD operates 365/24/7 with over 10,000 bus stops in 8 counties! Unlimited pass included w/ student fees.
- RTD has experienced reliability issues due to operator shortages, but this shouldn't impact your ability to get to class.
- Download the Transit app for live bus/train tracking! Bus and rail schedules are also incorporated onto Google Maps
- Protip: apartments.com has a "search by transitshed" feature! We recommend living within a 30-45min transit commute to school.



FARES

LOCAL

Travel through 1–2 rail fare zones.

	Full fare	Discount*	Youth**
3-hour pass	$3.00	$1.50	$0.90
MyRide Card	$2.80	$1.40	$0.90
Day Pass	$6.00	$3.00	$1.80

REGIONAL

Travel through 1–3 rail fare zones.

	Full fare	Discount*	Youth**
3-hour pass	$5.25	$2.60	$1.60
MyRide Card	$5.05	$2.50	$1.60
Day Pass	$10.50	$5.25	$3.20

AIRPORT

Travel to and from the airport.

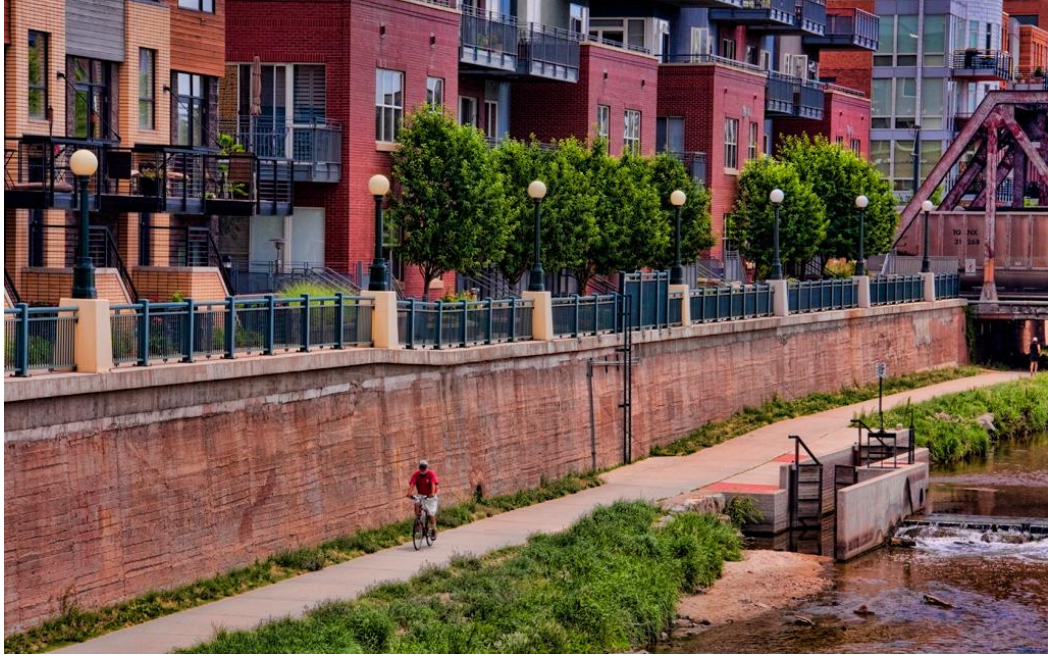
	Full fare	Discount*	Youth**
3-hour pass	$10.50	$5.25	$3.20
MyRide Card	$10.30	$5.15	$3.20
Day Pass	Purchase a Regional/Airport Day Pass		

Union Station

- Historic train hall renovated in 2014
- Ten minute walk to CAP Building
- Transit hub
    - A Line to airport, G Line to Arvada
    - Most light rail lines
    - Amtrak
    - RTD's *Flatiron Flyer* to Boulder
    - CDOT's *Bustang* to Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, and points west.
- Great study spot during the day + entertainment options at night

Getting Around: Bike

- If you're used to biking in a city, biking in Denver should be a breeze.
    - If not, many Denver streets can feel uncomfortable.
- 100 miles of off-street, multi-use trails
- 130 miles of bike lanes
- Denver installing more protected/high-comfort bikeways every year.
- Both dockless scooters and e-bikes are available. Some companies offer reduced-price programs for folks on Medicaid or other gov't assistance programs.



Around Denver

- Get outside! Colorado is an outdoor-focused place. Mountain biking, cross-country skiing, downhill sports, climbing, hiking 14ers, etc. Many trails are accessible without a car!

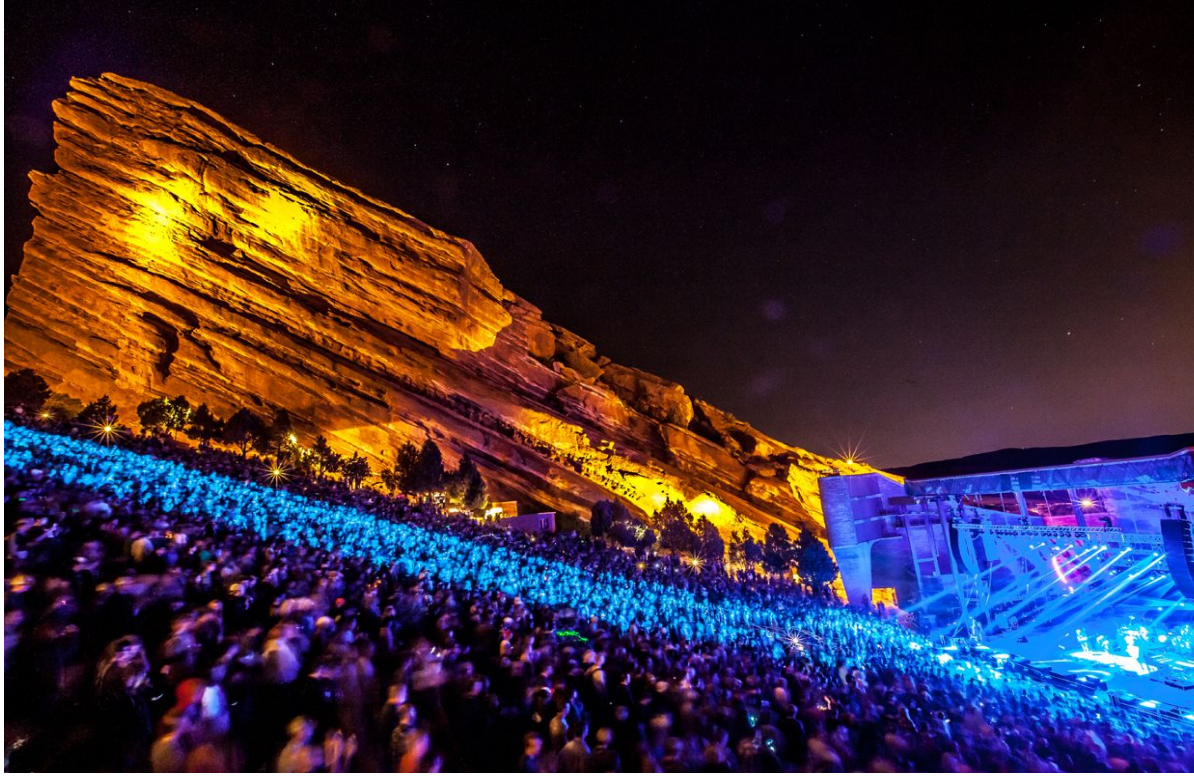
- Catch a game! Denver is home to teams from all four major sports. Catch a Rockies game for under $10 and enjoy the views and the food at the same time.

COLORADO ROCKIES™

BRONCOS

Around Denver

- See a show at Red Rocks! Denver owns one of the most unique outdoor venues in the world. Outdoor movies and yoga during the summer are alternative options.
- Grab a beer! Denver is home to some incredible microbrews.



Odds and Ends

- Health insurance
  - Not offered by the university, but most students will qualify for Colorado's expanded Medicaid program, which has great coverage for both physical and mental health
- Do I need to own a car?
  - It's absolutely doable to be car-free in Denver, but try to live in a denser neighborhood close to downtown. Getting to the mountains will be challenging, but possible.
- Will my bike be safe on campus?
  - Buy a U-lock (large enough to thread through your wheel+frame) and always use it - you should be fine!
- Don't burn bridges - the Denver planning community is tightly knit.

Questions about living in Denver?

Planning in Denver

Career Positions

- City and Municipal Planning
- Community Development
- Environmental and natural resource planning
- Economic Development
- Open Space and Parks and Recreation
- Historic Preservation
- Urban Design
- Policy vs. Design Based
- Consulting

DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

drcog
DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

URBAN
VENTURES

MileHighConnects
Opportunity for all through transit

Internships

- Municipalities, counties, and private firms hire interns year-round, with a definite boost in spring for summer positions.
- YOU 👋 SHOULD 👋 ALWAYS 👋 GET 👋 PAID 👋 FOR 👋 AN 👋 INTERNSHIP 👋
    - At least $15/hr, often high teens to low 20s.

HDR

Boulder County

Centennial

Littleton
ANYTHING BUT LITTLE

DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

RTD

CLARION

FEHR & PEERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY COLORADO

CDOT

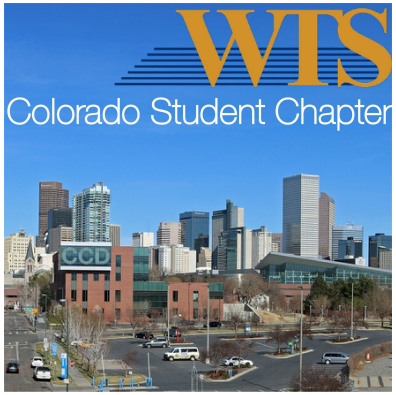
COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Internships (cont.)

- Build your network
- APAS organizes Job Shadowing 2x per year
- Juggling jobs/school/ life is a challenge, but worth the extra effort
- If full-time, don’t work over 20 hours a week, and take fewer than 15 hours of classes.
- Volunteer with local nonprofits!

Networking

- Denver Streets Partnership (walk/bike/transit), Bicycle Colorado, Alliance Center, and many more!
- Volunteering with nonprofits, cities, etc.
- APA Colorado
    - Networking events throughout the year, including with Emerging Planning Professionals!
    - State Conference in the Fall
- Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) has a student chapter that works on projects throughout the year.



Planning Topics

- Affordable housing
- Gentrification
- Bicycle and pedestrian planning
- Transit planning
- Economic growth
- Homelessness
- Hazard mitigation
    - Wildfires
    - Floods
- Water rights and scarcity
- Vision Zero (safe streets)
- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- Parks and open spaces

Questions about planning in Denver?

Studying in Denver

Studying

- Commit to being busy, but build in breaks
    - You get out of it what you put into it
- Build relationships - your cohort and professors will be your peers in a few years.
- Life as a MURP student includes fun, interactive projects
- Participate in student life like APAS and WTS

Questions about studying in Denver?

Further Questions? Contact Us

Dana Sparks - emily.sparks@ucdenver.edu
APAS President, Graduating May 2020

Planning Interests: Affordable housing, community development, long-range planning, all things equity

Outside of Planning Interests: Live Music, Yoga, Hiking

Which Parks & Rec Character are you? April Ludgate

Max Morgan - max.morgan@ucdenver.edu
APA Colorado Student Rep, Graduating May 2021

Planning Interests: Planning education & food systems

Outside of Planning Interests: Trivia, hockey, hot sauce

Which Parks & Rec Character are you? Literally, Chris Traeger

Ben Gellman - benjamin.gellman@ucdenver.edu
APAS Vice President, Graduating December 2020

Planning Interests: Equitably building safe and comfortable pedestrian, bicycle, and transit networks.

Outside of Planning Interests: Biking, basketball, beer

Which Parks & Rec Character are you? Ben Wyatt

Julia Wcislo - julia.wcislo@ucdenver.edu
APAS Student Body Rep, Graduating May 2020

Planning Interests: Affordable housing, transportation and equity

Outside of Planning Interests: Running, hiking, travel, tennis

Which Parks & Rec Character are you? Ron from Eagleton

Samantha Lasher - samantha.lasher@ucdenver.edu
APAS Secretary, Graduating May 2020

Planning Interests: Environmental planning, sustainability, equitable food systems, land use

Outside of Planning Interests: Reading, running, gardening

Which Parks & Rec Character are you? Ann Perkins

Alex Sterling - alex.sterling@ucdenver.edu
APAS Treasurer, Graduating May 2020

Planning Interests: Natural hazards and disaster mitigation, transportation, aviation

Outside of Planning Interests: Tennis, live music, running

Which Parks & Rec Character are you? Figuratively, Chris Traeger