

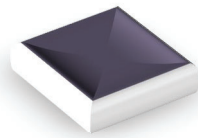
Evaluation of E-biking on Open Space

OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEC. 14, 2022

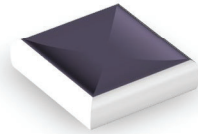


MARNI RATZEL
OSMP PRINCIPAL PLANNER

Presentation Overview

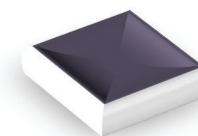


Background

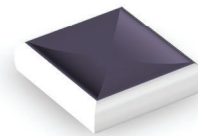


Analysis

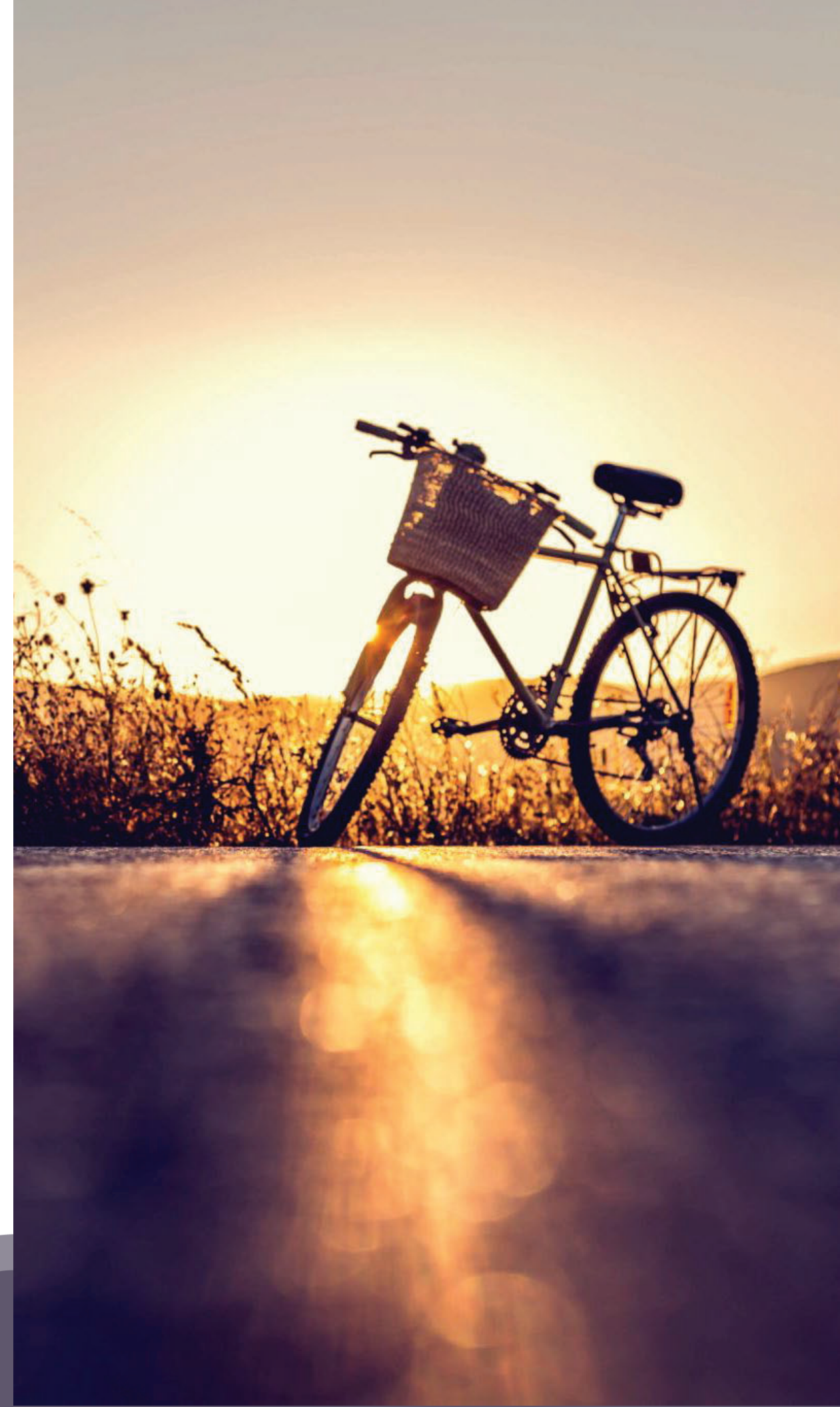
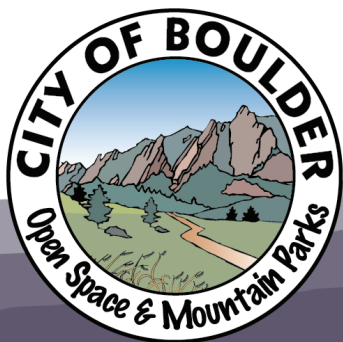
- **Approach for authorizing e-biking**
- **Additional information requested by OSBT**



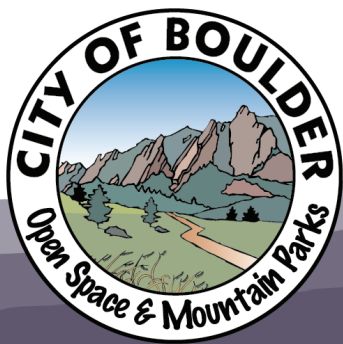
Staff recommendation & preferred alternative



Next steps



Background



Spring 2022

Evaluation of alternatives and preliminary proposal

Summer 2022

Community Engagement

Fall 2022

Board Input and Action

Nov 9: Present public feedback, additional analysis and preliminary staff recommendation

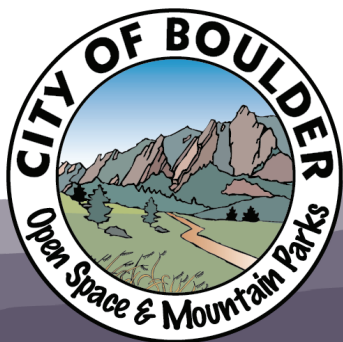
Dec 14: Public Hearing on Final Staff Recommendation to the OSBT

Jan 13: OSBT consideration and recommendation to City Council

We are
Here

Winter 2023

Council Consideration

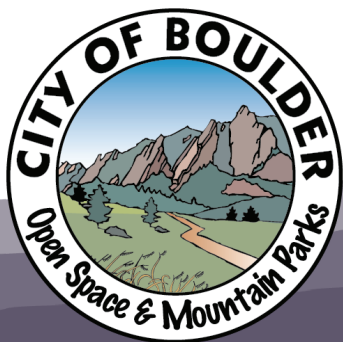
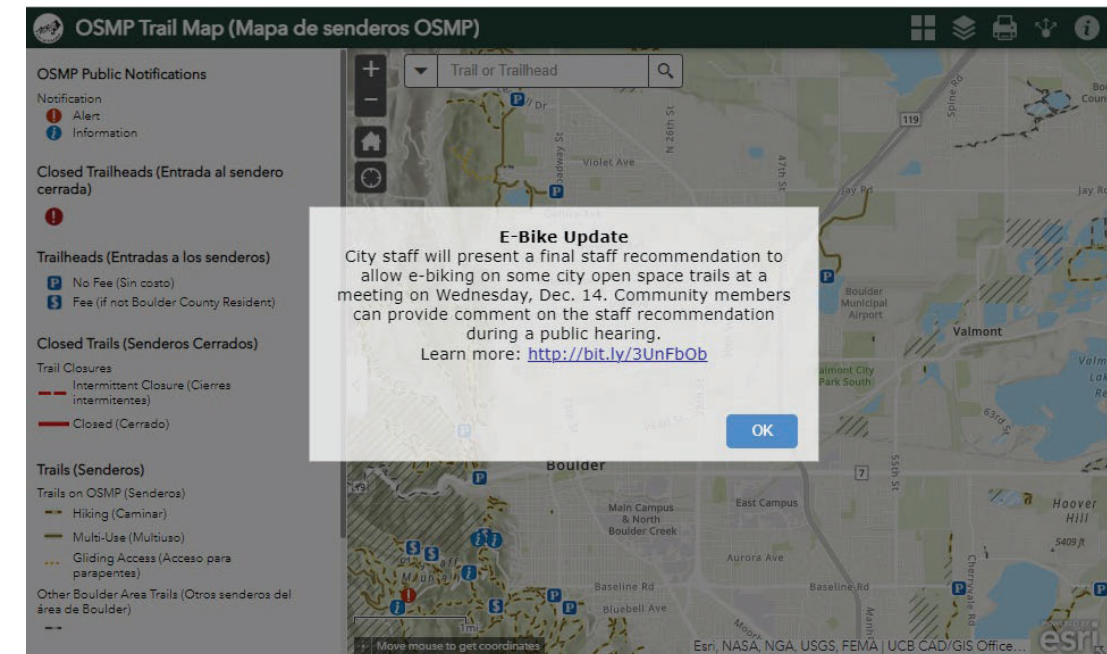


Board & Council Consideration

Public Hearing

Communications Alerts

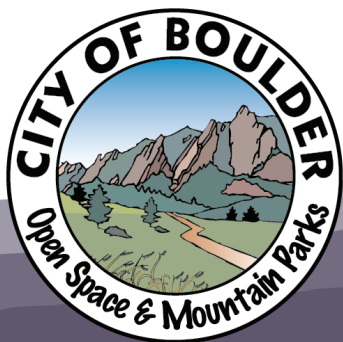
- Project webpage
- Be Heard Boulder
- OSMP Field Notes
- OMSP website
- OSMPTrails.org
- Facebook - OSMP
- Instagram – OSMP
- Twitter – OSMP
- OSMP stakeholder email



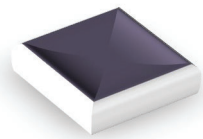
Status Quo / Existing Conditions



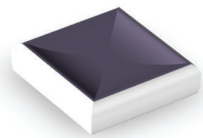
- E-bikes are not allowed on OSMP trails
- Disposal of open space required
- ADA exception



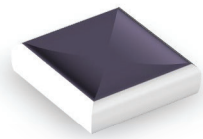
Objectives



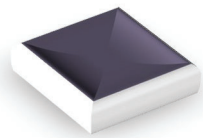
Improve access for community members of more ages and abilities to enjoy open space trails



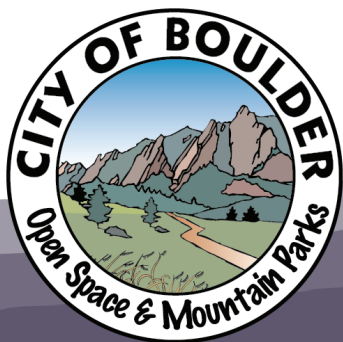
Provide consistent visitor experiences across interconnected trails



Provide more adaptive management approaches by considering alternatives to disposal

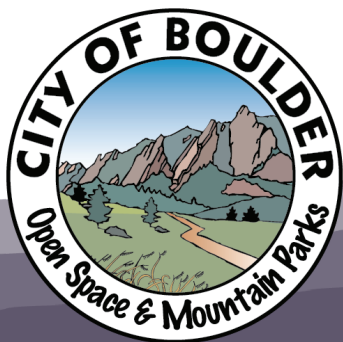


Support broader city climate goals



Alternatives to the Status Quo

- A. All Trails that allow bikes
- B. Plains trails located east of Broadway, and the Boulder Canyon Trail
- C. Inter-Connected Trails that allow bicycling and are part of the regional trail



Engagement Window

SUMMER
2022:



Online Engagement Questionnaire



On-Site Intercept
Survey



Office Hours



Compendium of
Community Comments



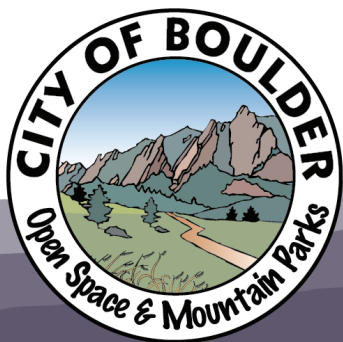
Comment themes include:

Concern for:

- Safety
- User Conflict
- E-biking Speed

Support for:

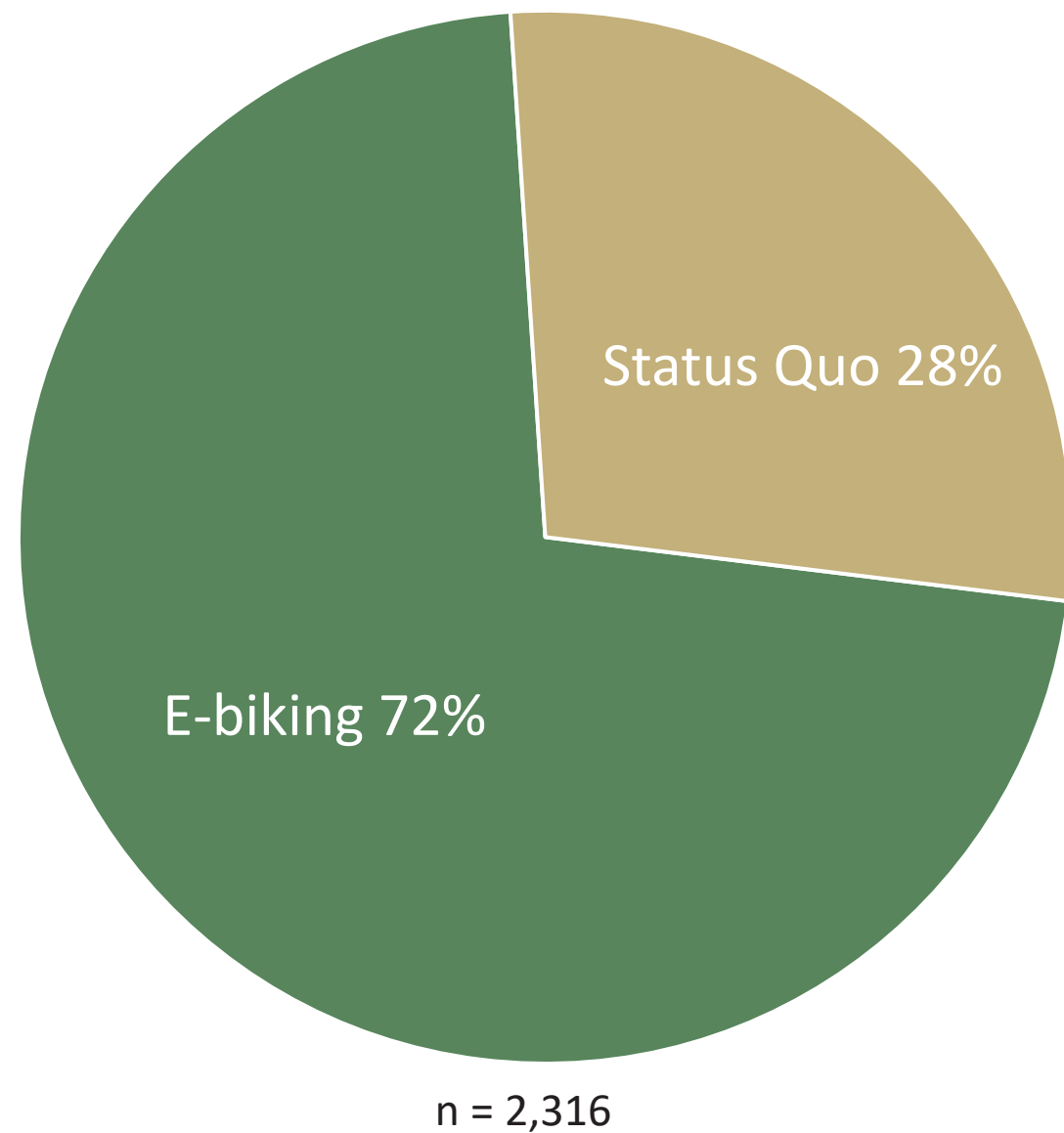
- Speed Limit Enforcement



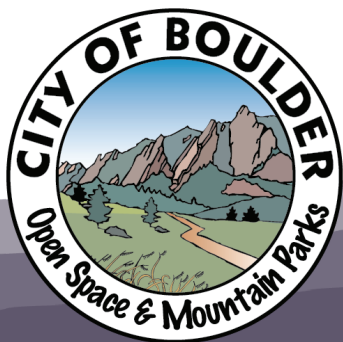
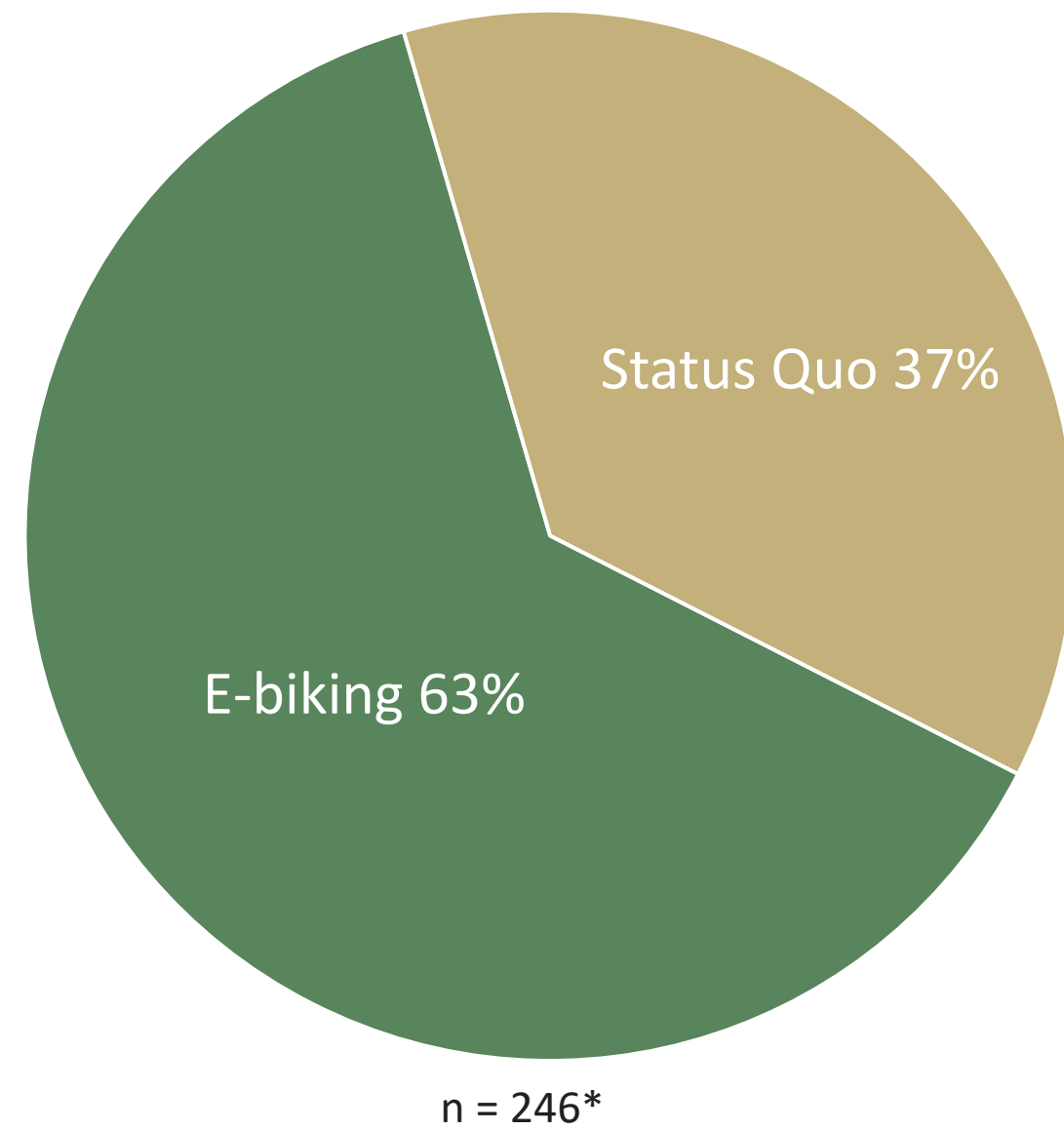
Community Engagement

Support for E-bikes on Open Space

Online Engagement



Onsite Intercept

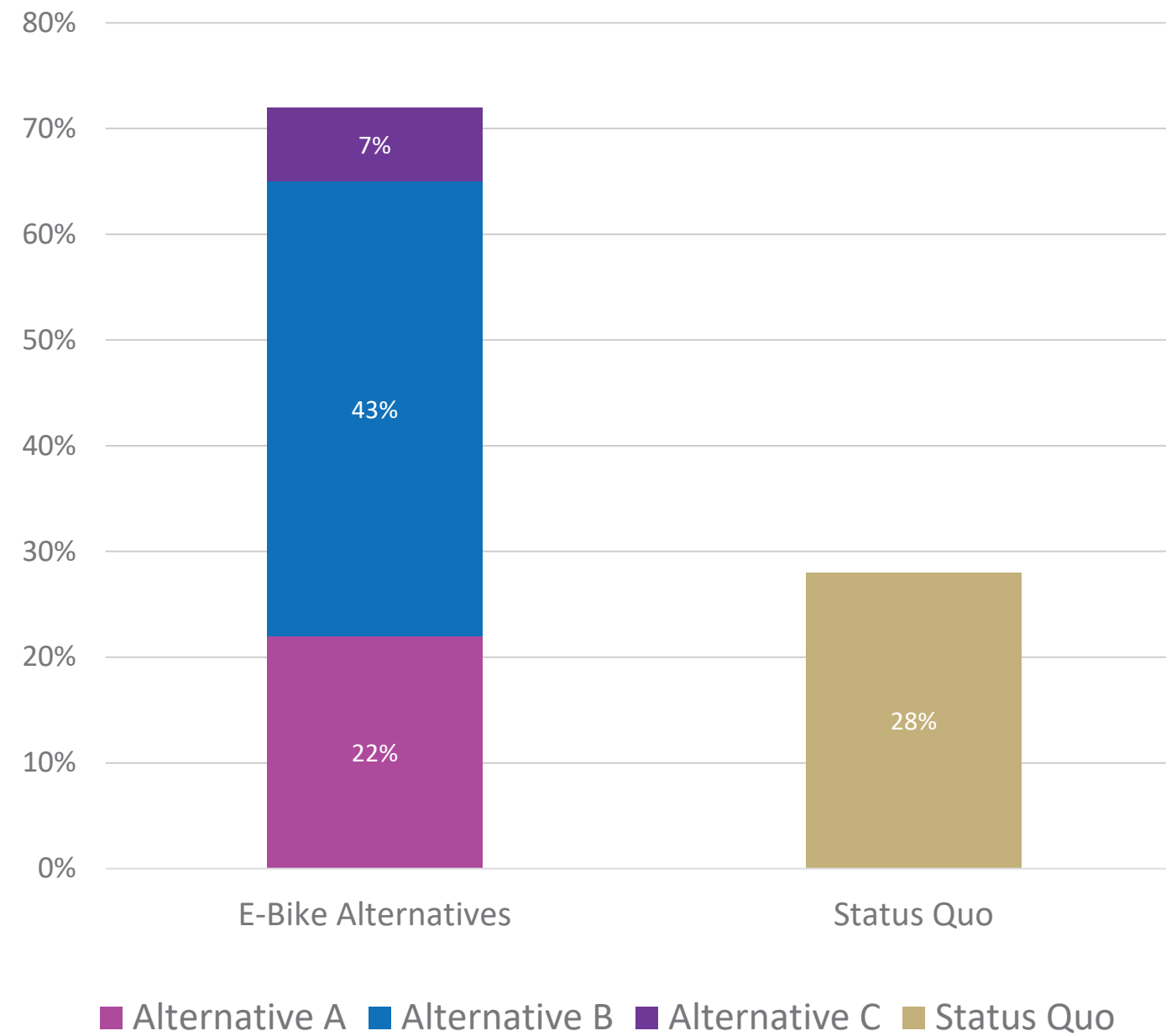


Community Engagement

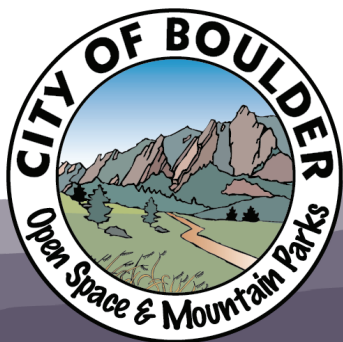
*These percentages come from a question that was added starting in week 4 of the 9-week survey that specifically asked respondents to indicate which option they “most prefer”.

Online Engagement

Support for alternatives or the status quo



n = 2,316



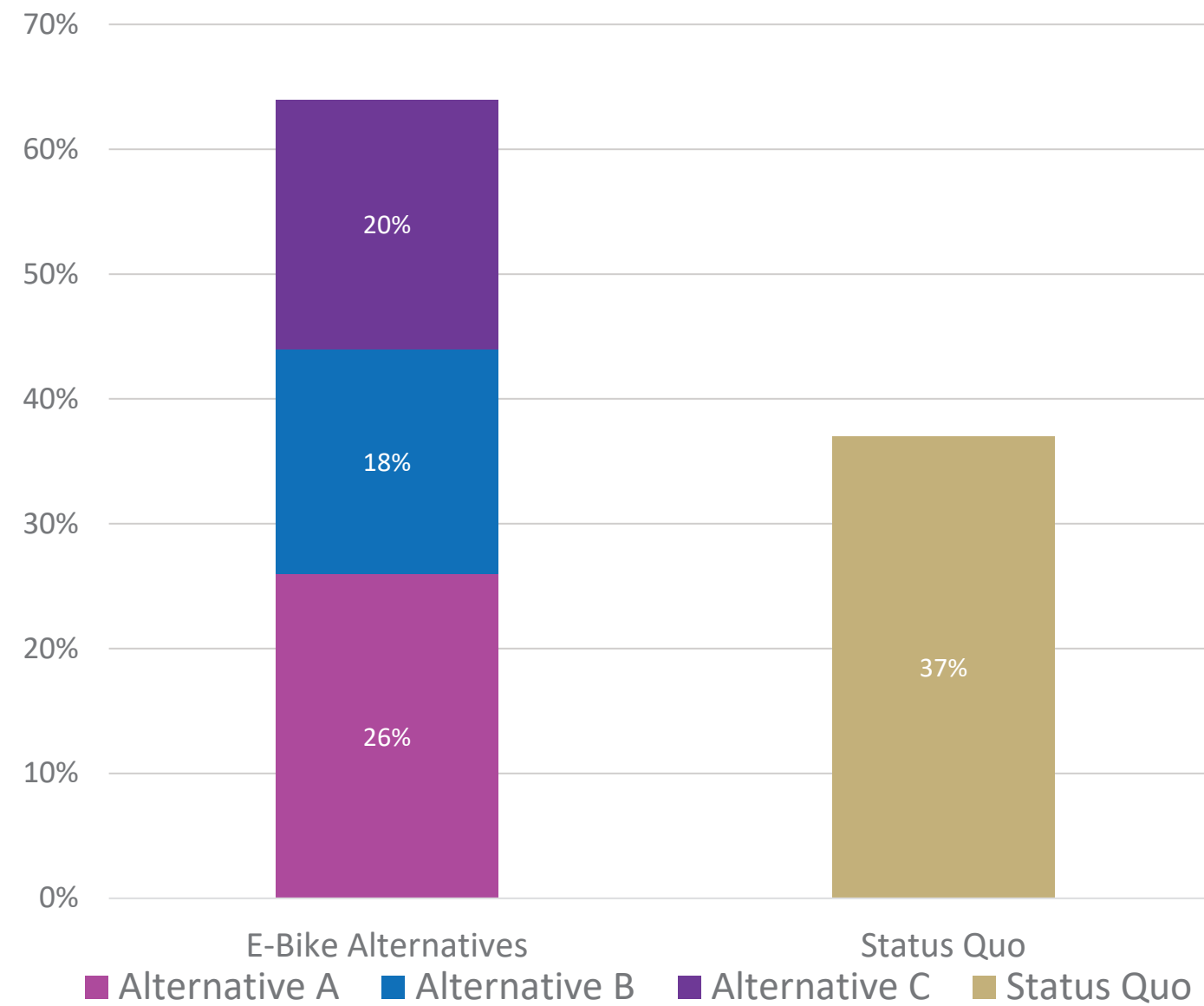
Community Engagement

Onsite Intercept

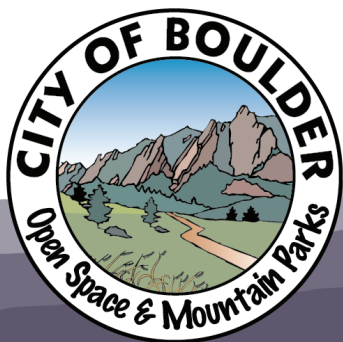
Management alternatives responses

Preference

Overall, which option do you most prefer?



n = 246



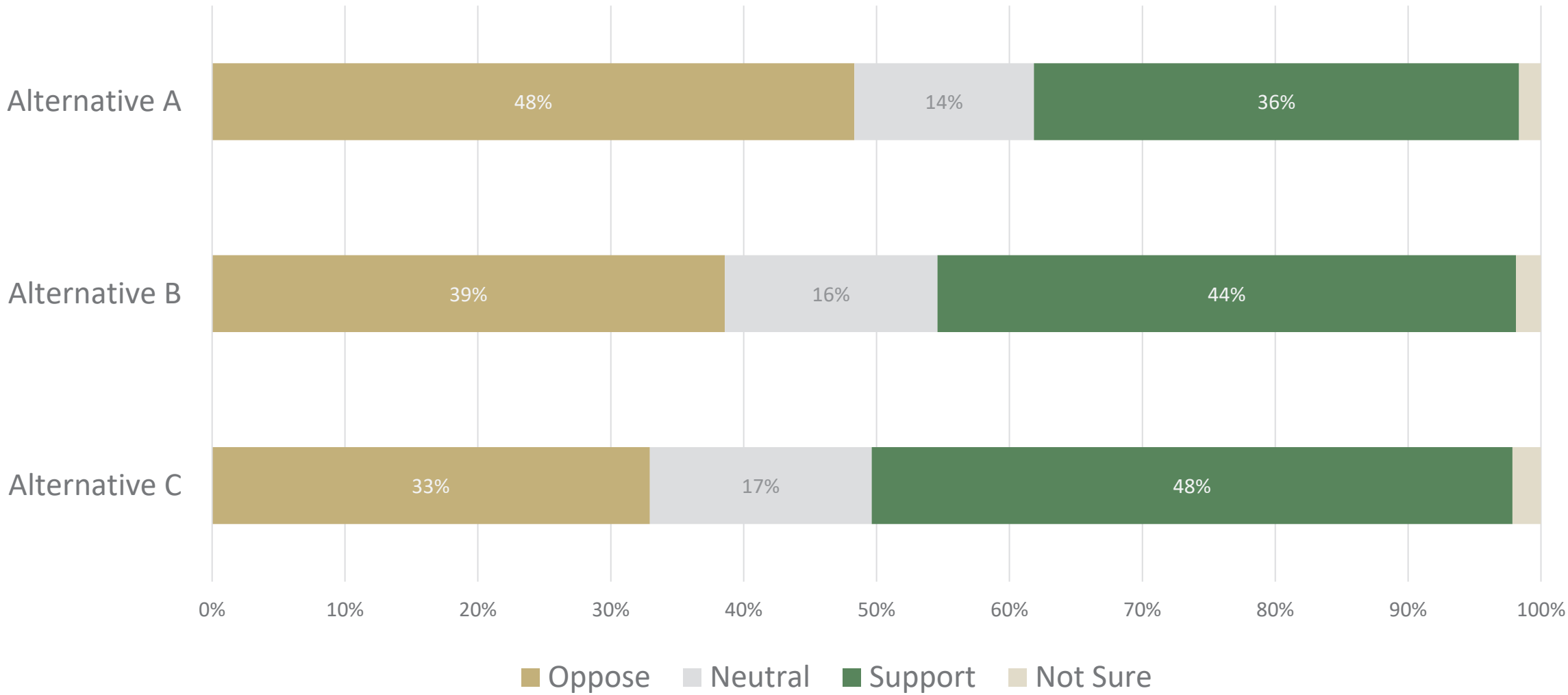
Community Engagement

Onsite Intercept

Management alternatives responses

Level of Support

Please indicate your level of opposition or support for allowing class 1 and class 2 e-bikes on all multi-use trails that allow bikes on OSMP properties.

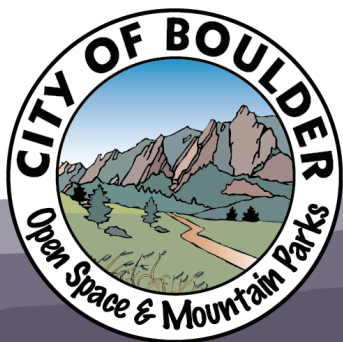
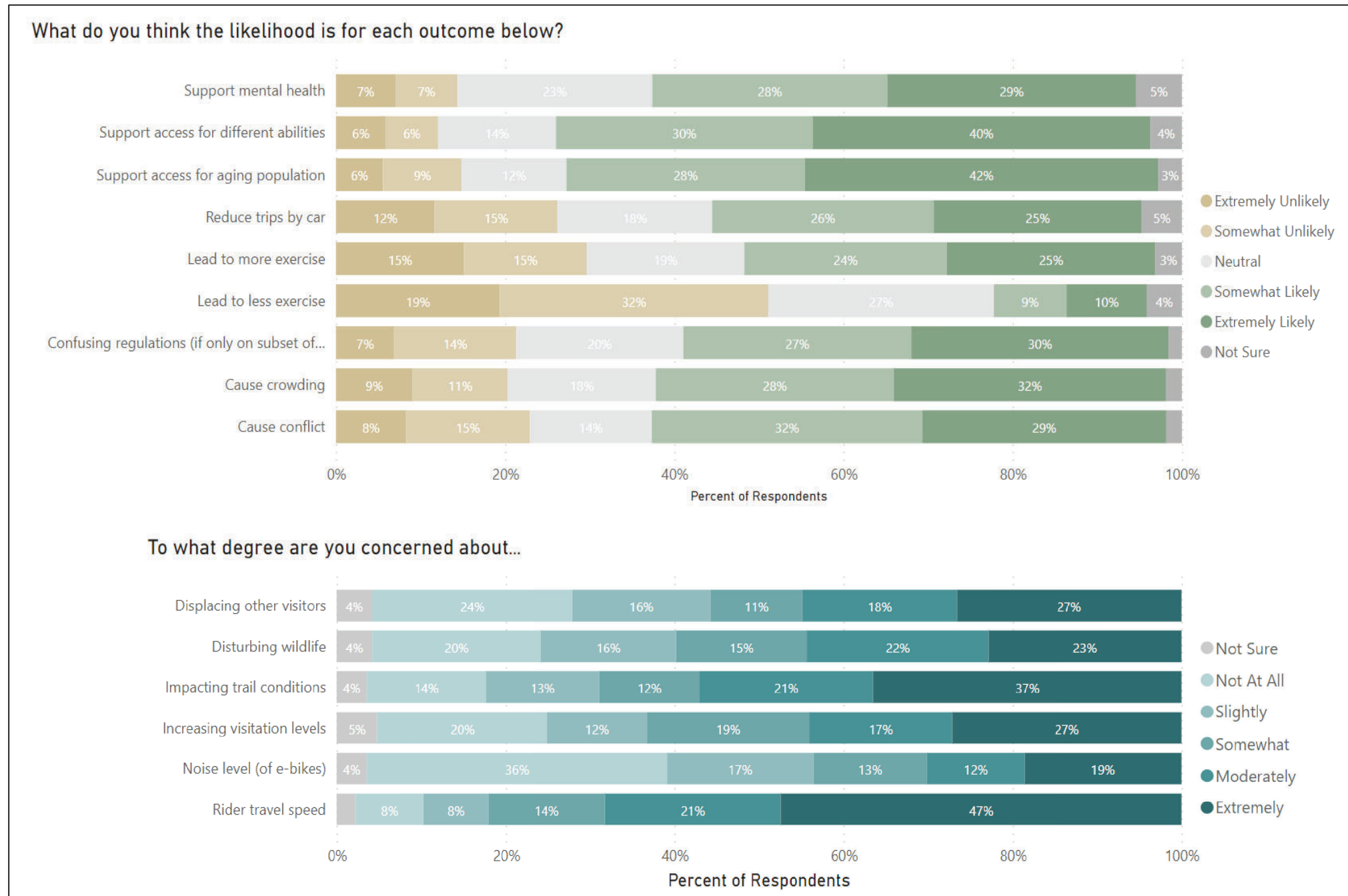


n = 431



Onsite Intercept Rating Reasons

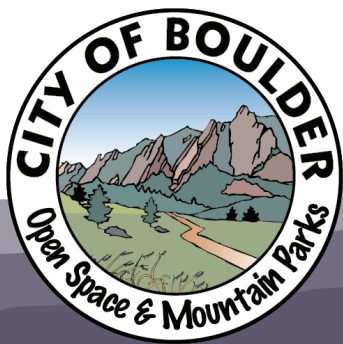
- Includes All respondents
- Inform management
- Existing monitoring



Inputs



Analysis



Staff recommended approach to allow e-biking on open space

What

Allow Class 1 & Class 2 e-biking as a passive recreational use on certain open space trails, where designated.

class

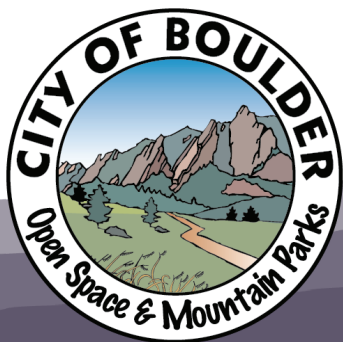
1

Pedal assist only,
maximum assisted
speed of 20 mph

class

2

Pedal & throttle
assisted, maximum
assisted speed 20

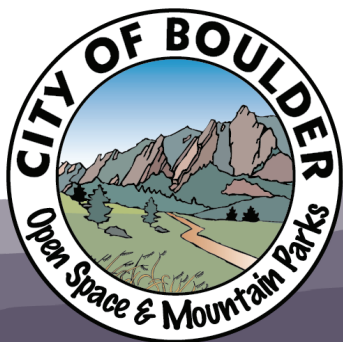


Staff recommended approach to allow e-biking on open space

How

New Ordinance approved by City Council

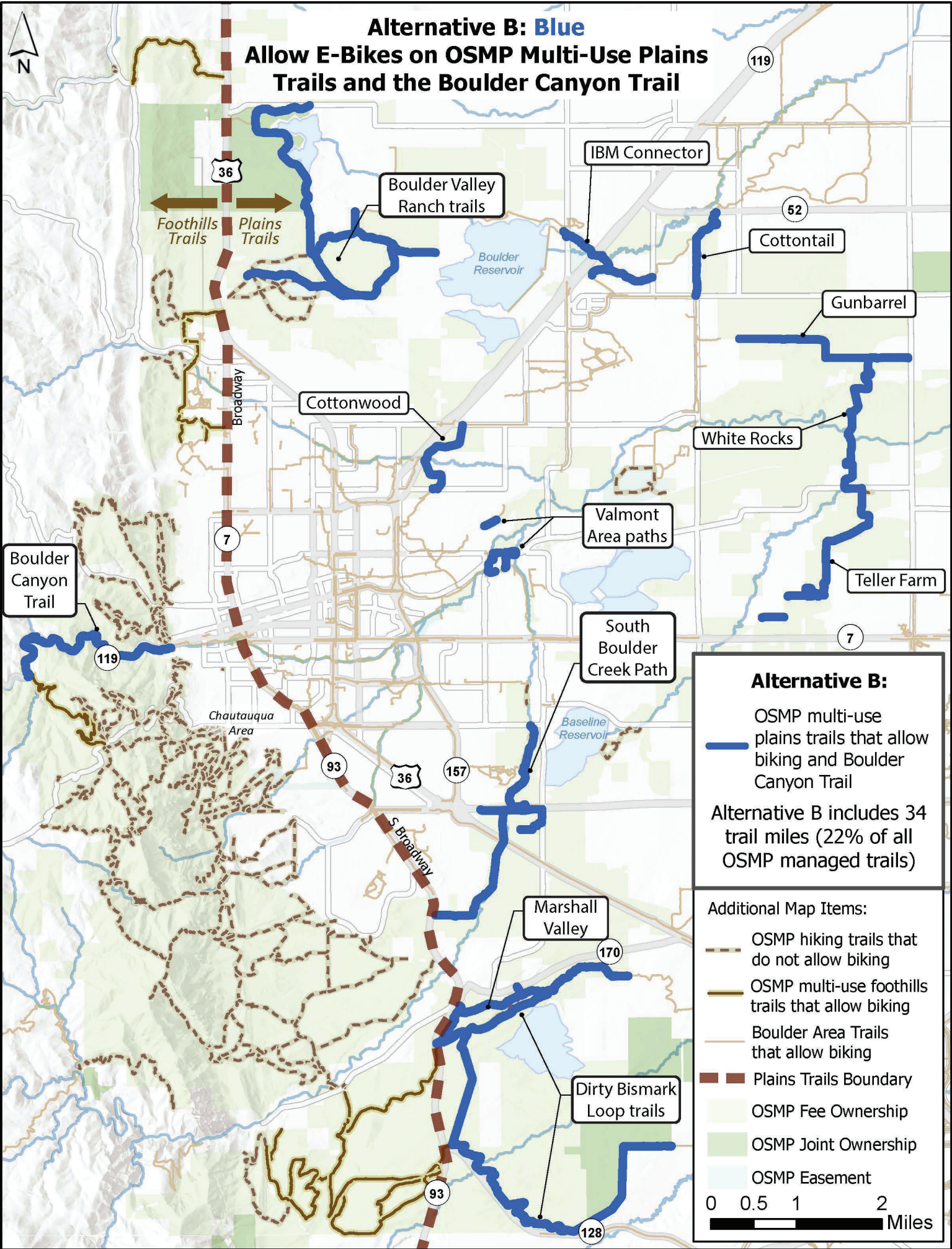
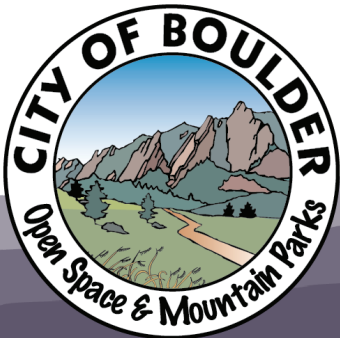
- Adds Open Space regulation 8-8-12
 - ✓ Legislative finding that e-biking is passive recreational activity
 - ✓ Authorizes e-biking on certain designated trail by city manager rule
 - ✓ Includes VMP criteria to determine trails for e-biking
- **BRC amendments**
- **Repeals 7-5-25 No E-bikes on Open Space Trails**



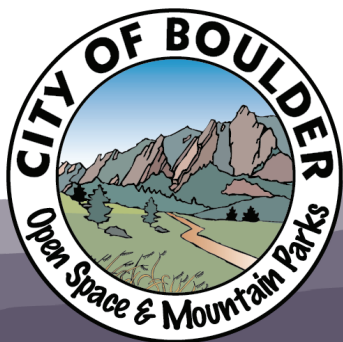
Staff recommended approach to allow e-biking on open space

Where Management Alternative B

- ✓ OSMP Plains trails
- ✓ Boulder Canyon trail



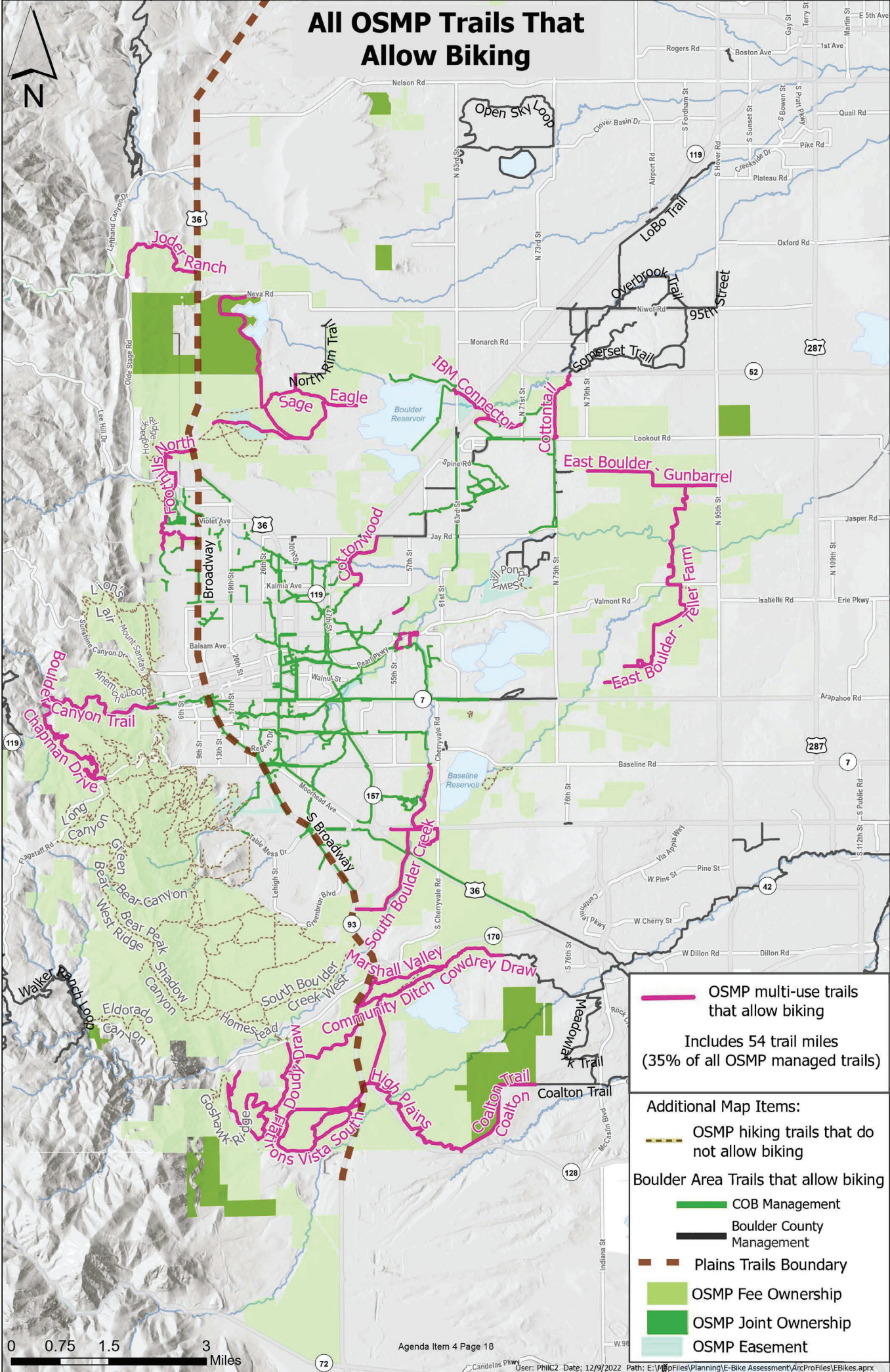
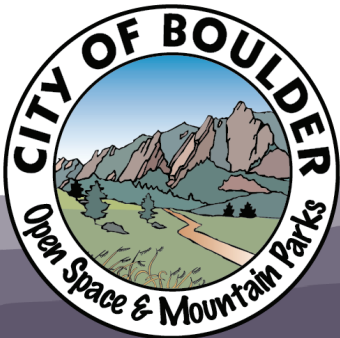
Additional information requested from OSBT



Additional information requested from OSBT



Map of OSMP trails that allow biking



Additional information requested from OSBT



Demographic comparison of OSMP surveys and census data

- Age
- Residency
- Sex/Gender
- Hispanic or Latino
- Race

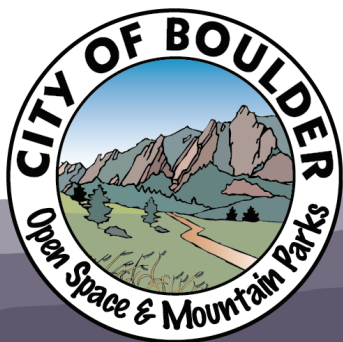


Onsite intercept survey

- Additional crosstabulations by age and residency
- Weighting the onsite intercept survey results
- Locations selected for onsite intercept survey



Rationale for combining Resident Survey into on-site Visitor Surveys



Additional information requested from OSBT



Enforcement

- Violations and fines
- Summonses issued
- Management approach for e-biking

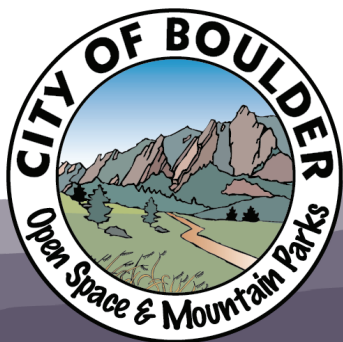


OSMP & Accessibility

- Accessible trail design
- New technologies
- OPDMDs and e-bikes



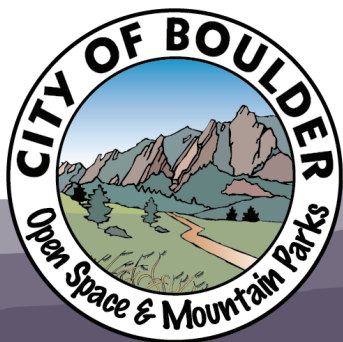
E-bike Battery Management System (BMS)



Additional information requested from OSBT



Unique ideas from online engagement open ended responses

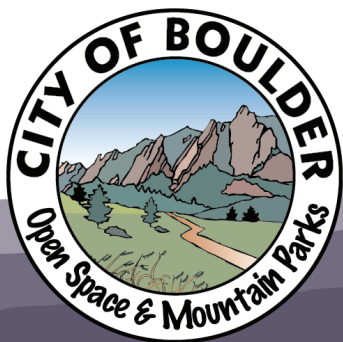


List of unique ideas from online engagement questionnaire question <i>Are there any additional comments about e-bikes you would like to share?</i>	Count	Percent
Safety		
Concern for safety / etiquette behavior / user conflict / crowding	413	18%
Informed, courteous riders are good trail users or bike type doesn't implicate behavior or safety.	110	5%
E-bikes are safer on flatter/wider trails or e-bikes on narrow or singletrack trails is concerning for me	50	2%
E-biking on paths and trails increase safety/is safer than on the roads	26	1%
Increase and improve signage, ie regarding riding etiquette, personal liability for harm to others and/or designate directional trails	19	1%
Require mandatory e-bike cycling safety education course or permit process prior to allowing individual e-bike riders on OSMP / increase education / influence cultural change toward safety	18	1%
User conflict with horses/equestrians	14	1%
must give audible alert when passing/ using bell/audible alert	9	0%
Consider only allowing e-bikes on trails with high visibility / visibility is a concern	7	0%
I have a disability/mobility issues or am a senior and e-bikes on the trails make me feel endangered / reduce my use of trails	6	0%
E-bikes pose a fire risk	5	0%
Increase safety-related trail improvements like center/boundary lines, warnings at curves, right-of-way etc.	3	0%
Only permit e-bikes on trails with clear separation between bikes & pedestrians	2	0%
Support e-bikes if safety precautions are effective	1	0%
Speed		
Post/enforce speed limit / concerned about speed of e-bikes, bikers in general	292	13%
People on traditional bikes can ride faster than e-bikes	41	2%
20 mph speed of e-bikes is too fast / e-bikers go too fast	19	1%
Establish GPS controls to limit e-bike speeds while on trails	1	0%
Introduce speed limit signs with radar to educate on current speeds	1	0%
Enforcement		
Enforce the trails for e-bikes / there are currently violations	76	3%
Concerned about ability to enforce e-bikes	32	1%
Current regulations are too complex/confusing and/or limit exploration	15	1%
Allowing on some trails but not others will lead to confusion and/or self-policing / allowing on all trails provides clarity	13	1%
Types of e-bikes		
Allow Class 1 & 2 e-bikes on all trails where bikes are allowed	208	9%
Allow Class 1 only/pedal assist e-bikes on all trails where bikes are allowed	82	4%
I see little to no difference between e-bike and traditional bike	58	2%
I see little to no difference between Class 1/pedal assist e-bike and regular bike	22	1%
Allow Class 3 e-bikes	8	0%
Determine which e-bikes allowed by motor wattage / power limit	3	0%
Pedal assist used to/from trailhead, not on trails	2	0%
Only allow Class 1 & 2 e-bikes with the sticker required by Colorado law	1	0%
Only allow e-bikes (and bikes) on trails within EMT access	1	0%

Additional information requested from OSBT



Comparison of primary activity across OSMP surveys



Additional information requested from OSBT



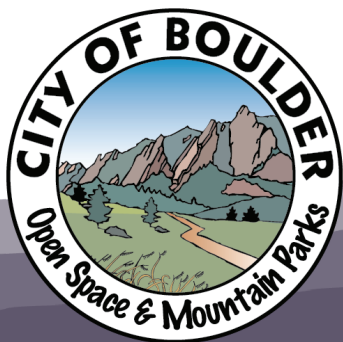
Comparison of primary activity across OSMP surveys

2019 OSMP
Master Plan
Survey

Table 2: Question #2

Of the following activities, which TWO do you most frequently participate in when visiting OSMP areas?*

(Only asked of those who have visited OSMP areas at least once in past 12 months)



Additional information requested from OSBT



Comparison of primary activity across OSMP surveys

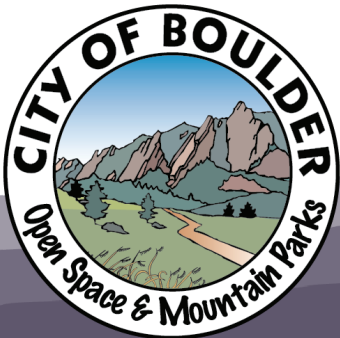
2019 OSMP
Master Plan
Survey

Table 2: Question #2

Of the following activities, which TWO do you most frequently participate in when visiting OSMP areas?*

(Only asked of those who have visited OSMP areas at least once in past 12 months)

		Percent*	Number	Distribution of responses
Hiking/walking		85%	1091	37%
Dog walking		26%	332	11%
Running		27%	345	12%
Biking		26%	331	11%
Observing nature/wildlife		24%	302	10%
Photography/painting		6%	81	3%
Horseback riding		1%	7	0%
Climbing/bouldering		8%	109	4%
Fishing		3%	37	1%
Picnicking		5%	64	2%
Skiing/snowshoeing		4%	45	2%
Contemplation/meditation		9%	115	4%
Social gathering		7%	85	3%
Other**		1%	16	1%
Total	N = 1283	232%	2960	100%

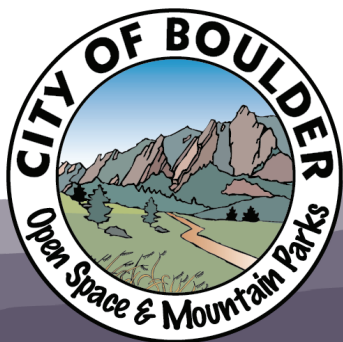


Primary Activity Distribution by OSMP survey

Primary activity distribution by OSMP Survey					
Primary Activity	Systemwide Intercept (2016-2017)		Master Plan (2019)*	E-bike Intercept (2022)	E-Bike Online (2022)
Hiking/walking	42%		37%	52%	47%
Dog walking	22%		11%	13%	6%
Running	16%		12%	13%	7%
Biking	10%		11%	19%	36%
Climbing/bouldering	2%		4%	1%	1%
Fishing	1%		1%	1%	<1%
Horseback riding	<1%		<1%	<1%	1%
Other	7%**		24%**	1%	1%
Total	100%		100%	100%	100%

*2019 Master Plan Survey asked respondents their TWO most frequent activities on OSMP. These results were re-analyzed and shown here as the proportion of total responses received.

**2016-2017 System-wide and 2019 Master Plan Surveys had several additional activities included in the choice response list. These have been collapsed into "Other" here for purposes of comparing to the other surveys.



Additional Information Request by OSBT

Forthcoming

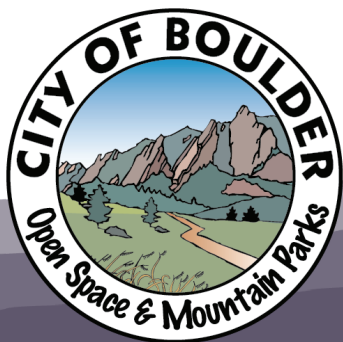
Additional information requested from OSBT



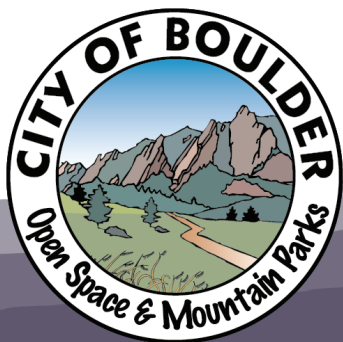
Widths of OSMP managed trails that allow biking



Agency comparison of visitation on trails that allow biking



Staff recommendation & preferred alternative



Staff Recommendation

What:

Allow Class 1 & Class 2 e-biking as a passive recreational use on certain open space trails, where designated.

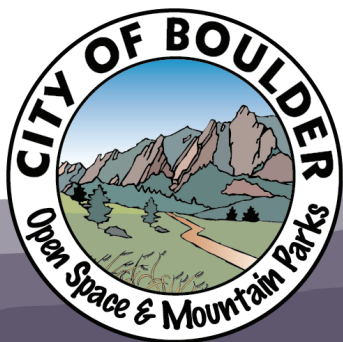
How:

New Ordinance approved by City Council

- Adds Open Space regulation 8-8-12
 - ✓ Legislative finding that e-biking is passive recreational activity
 - ✓ Authorizes e-biking on certain designated trail by city manager rule
 - ✓ Includes VMP criteria to determine trails for e-biking
- **BRC amendments to regulate e-biking** on open space trails
- **Repeals 7-5-25 No E-bikes on Open Space Trails**

VMP Criteria

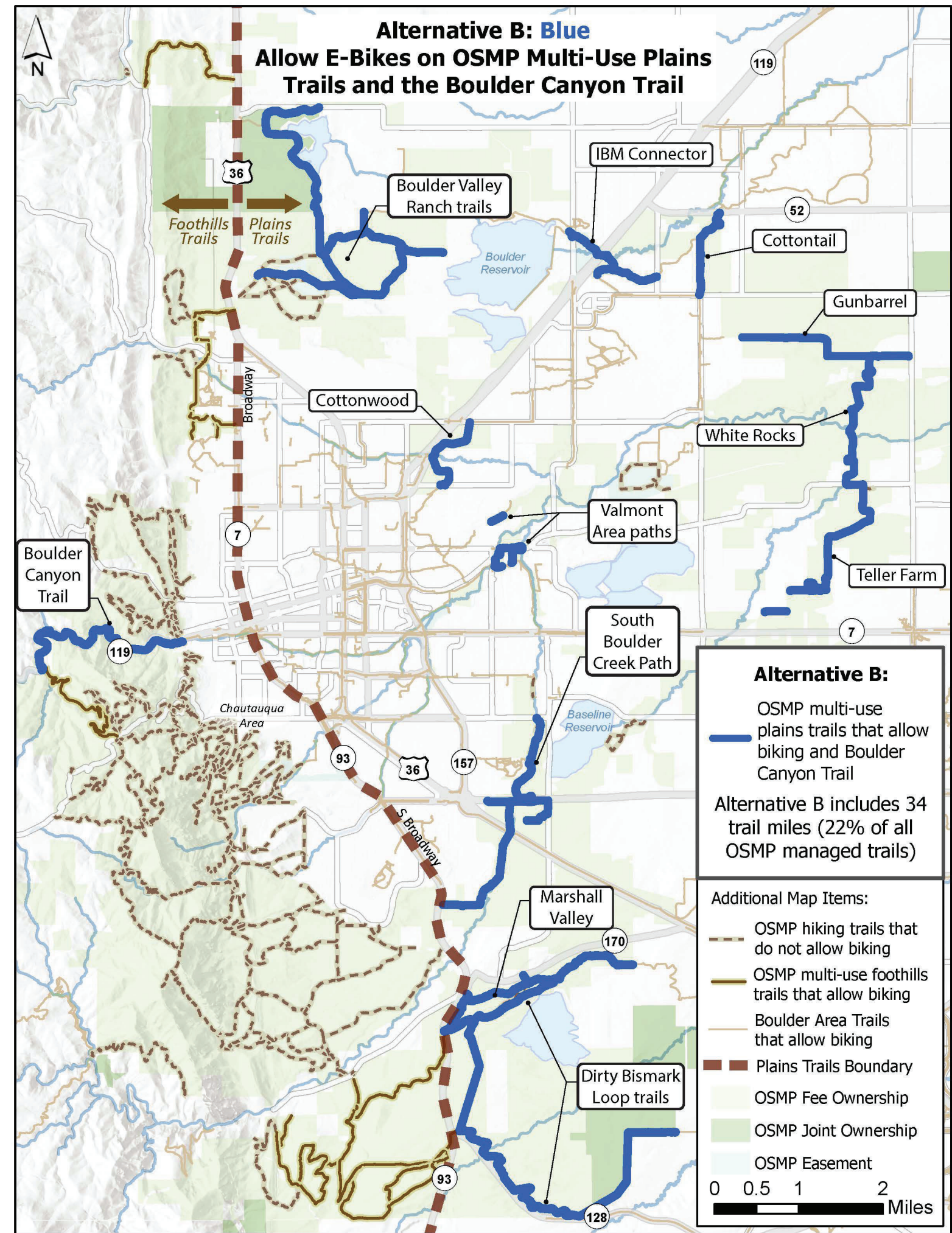
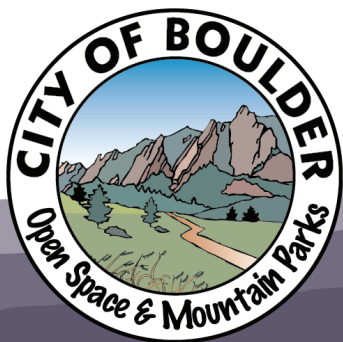
- Offer constructive, restorative, and pleasurable human benefits that foster an appreciation and understanding of Open Space [and Mountain Parks] and its purposes
- Do not significantly impact natural, cultural, scientific, or agricultural values
- Occur in an Open Space and Mountain Parks setting, which is an integral part of the experience
- Require only minimal facilities and services directly related to safety and minimizing passive recreational impacts
- Are compatible with other passive recreational activities



Preferred Alternative for managing e-bikes on OSMP trails

Where: **Alternative B – Plains Trails
and Boulder Canyon Trail**

- Consistent visitor experience and regulations
- Increased equitable access
- Minimal impacts
- Supports broader city climate goals



Spring 2022

Evaluation of alternatives and preliminary proposal

Summer 2022

Community Engagement

Fall 2022

Board Input and Action

Nov 9: Present public feedback, additional analysis and preliminary staff recommendation

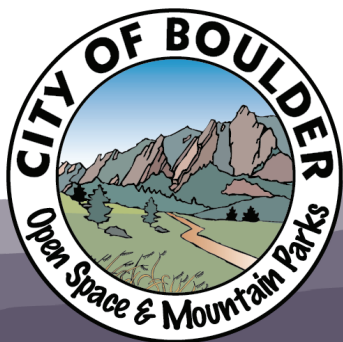
Dec 14: Public Hearing on Final Staff Recommendation

Jan 13: OSBT consideration and recommendation to City Council

Next
Step

Winter 2023

Council Consideration



Board & Council Consideration

Thank You!



Questions?

