

Town of Erie Legislative Policy Priorities

The Town of Erie is a growing community with high expectations for being the best place to raise a family, start a business, thrive through aging, enjoy the outdoors, and so much more. The Town Council regularly engages residents through various methods to check in on changing values and goals for our future. Residents shared in a survey in Summer 2025 that their top priorities for action in the next 2-3 years include Traffic & Infrastructure, Growth & Development, Water Cost & Availability, Affordable & Diverse Housing, Increasing Commercial Development, Public Safety, Oil & Gas Development, Preservation of Open Space, Recreation & Community Amenities, and a Multi-Modal Focus. The Town will advocate for or against proposed legislation that relates to the above topics. More details related to this advocacy are below.

LOCAL AUTONOMY AND CONTROL

- **Support Local Government Autonomy and Home Rule Authority**
The Town generally opposes the preemption of local authorities, and bills that seek to limit the authority and powers of municipal government, unless they are co-developed in conjunction with municipal partners and further a policy otherwise identified in the Town's policy agenda.
- **Advocate For Increased Local Government Participation in the Development of Policies And Legislation That Impact Municipalities and Counties**
The Town supports policies that recognize the unique and diverse history, culture, and environment of communities across Colorado, while working to ensure equity for all throughout the entire State.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Affordable Housing

- **Ensure Funding for Affordable Housing Reflects the Regional and Local Costs of Development**
Ensure that State and Federal grants and subsidies for affordable housing development reflect regional housing development and land costs and keep pace with construction/materials cost increases.
- **Support Policies and Funding to Preserve Affordable Housing (Designated and Naturally Occurring)**
Expand housing funding, that preserves existing affordable housing units and keeps people in their homes, such as programs for rental and mortgage assistance, housing rehab, housing modifications for aging in place and accessibility, and other innovative approaches to utilize existing housing stock.

Commented [GR1]: Suggestion for UDC Update process: Ease code restrictions on residents who, for the most part, lease their basement to possibly a non-family member.

- **Improve the Rights of Residents Within Manufactured Home Communities**
Enhance and preserve the rights of residents within manufactured home communities and provide funding to support residential ownership or non-profit ownership of manufactured home communities.
- **Increase Funding and Financial Incentives That Support Local Governments in Increasing Affordable Housing Stock, Transit, and Transportation**
Increase the availability of tax credits and other financial incentives for the development and retention of affordable housing. Support increased downpayment assistance for affordable ownership opportunities. Work with State legislators to ensure affordable housing funding and programs are designed for clarity and ease of access to both for- and non-profit developers. [Increase access to multimodal transit, and investments in safety improvements for Vulnerable Road Users.](#)
- **Support Increased Local Control Over Special Districts and Their Taxing Authority**
Provide increased municipal controls over the formation of and taxation of special districts, including metro districts' ability [to implement mill caps, bond limitations and increased ability for bond to be refinanced to ensure mills to residents do not become overly burdensome, to tax residents more than the actual cost of the infrastructure provided and their ability to refinance when a bond is close to sunsetting.](#)
- **Support Programs and Services That Assist Families and Individuals in Housing Crisis or Experiencing Homelessness**
Support efforts to create, expand and preserve state, county, and local government options to address Colorado's housing affordability crisis, including housing and supportive services for those facing eviction, at-risk of homelessness, and expanded housing opportunities for Erie's workforce. [Erie does not support unfunded mandates and advocates for necessary funding to accompany any legislation.](#)
- **Support Efforts to Increase the Availability of For-Sale Condominiums Through Construction Defects or Other Policy Reforms**
Condo construction in Colorado, unlike many other states, has diminished significantly over the past 15 years, leaving a gap in the housing continuum, and reducing affordable and attainable housing options. To effectively address this issue the Colorado General Assembly must balance the costs, risks, and impacts to both developers and homeowners. The Town supports a comprehensive solution that addresses construction liability, condo development insurance, and homeowner protections and rights.
- **Balance tenant rights with landlord rights when creating new laws.**
[The Town of Erie supports small, local landlord ability to lease properties without undo burden from regulation. The Town opposes laws which may force local landlords to leave the market, which may reduce the number of rental properties.](#)

Commented [GR2]: Addition from Council Member O'Connor.

Transportation

- **Support Comprehensive Funding Solutions That Meet the Increasing Transportation and Mobility Needs In Colorado**

Erie supports a comprehensive statewide transportation funding solution to meet the growing transportation and mobility needs of Colorado. Colorado must consider all opportunities including the expansion and modernization of the transportation revenue structure, reevaluation of Colorado's spending priorities, and a more equitable approach to allocating available revenues to address the growing mobility needs at the local government level through specific distributions for local transportation systems that maintain the infrastructure in the highest population density areas.

- **Support Policies and Funding That Increase Multimodal Options and Improve Transportation Safety to Reduce Traffic Fatalities**

The Town supports legislation funds innovative and collaborative approaches to maintain and improve existing transportation systems, address safety, and support multimodal transportation investments.

- **Ensure Transit Investments Incorporate the Needs of Communities Partially Within The RTD Boundary**

Support transit investments and grant opportunities that incorporate the needs of communities such as the Town of Erie, which lie partially within the RTD regional transit boundaries. Ensure transit related funding considers travel sheds and commuter patterns that fall outside jurisdictional boundaries.

Commented [JJ3]: Erie is now fully in the RTD Boundary and this is no longer a priority.

- **Expedite Funding to Support the NAMS (Northwest Area Mobility Study) Transportation Corridor Improvements**

Erie supports resources and funding to complete the multimodal and roadway improvement planned for the key North Area Mobility Study (NAMS) corridors, including multimodal improvements and transit service along CO-7, CO-52, CO-287 and the I-25 corridor. Expedite resources to complete these projects within a faster timeframe.

Ensure funding is available for local infrastructure that supports these State and federal highway systems.

- **Support Ongoing Planning for Front Range Passenger Rail and Other Rail Investments That Would Improve Access and Infrastructure for the Residents of Erie**
Support the planning and funding opportunities for the rail Joint Service Plan which includes both the Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) and Northwest Rail including station area planning. Support the expansion of existing RTD rail services including the N Line to State Highway 7 and to Erie to ensure RTD fulfills its obligation to our region.
Support ongoing planning for the Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) plan in Colorado and identify long term funding for rail infrastructure, including station area planning, and extending the N Line to Erie, completing both the Northwest Rail line as well as the Front Range Passenger Rail Line, and expanding existing service and new rail systems to ensure RTD fulfills its obligation to our region.

Commented [GR4]: Suggestion from Council Member Baer: Include reference to the Joint Service Plan which is likely to be the first phase of FRPR and NW Rail in the Northern Corridor.

- **Support Investments in Advanced & Smart Technologies That Support All Modes of Travel**
Support Investments in Automated Vehicles That Are Clean-Fueled and Safe for All Modes of Travel

Support policies and investments in autonomous vehicle infrastructure that are clean-fueled and safe for all modes of travel, and that have the potential to reduce parking demand and vehicle miles travelled. Ensure local governments have regulatory authority for the implementation and management of these vehicles and systems.

- **Increase Transportation Access for Vulnerable Populations, Including Youth, Older Adults, Lower Income Residents and People with Disabilities**
Increase transportation access for Erie residents who depend on transit, multi-modal connections, micro-transit, and other alternative transportation options. Ensure transportation access and connectivity to key services is available to vulnerable and underserved populations, including youth, older adults, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and those with lower income and people with disabilities.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability & Climate Resilience

- **Support Investments in Air-Quality Improvements to Address Environmental and Public Health Impacts**
Increase efforts that prioritize and promote effective and cost-efficient initiatives to improve air quality and bring nonattainment areas of the State into compliance with the federal Clean Air Act.
- **Support Local Clean Energy and Climate Resilience Investments**
Increase opportunities for municipalities to implement local clean energy and climate-related strategies, including access to federal and State funding for renewable energy, electrification, nature-based climate solutions, and other innovative and effective approaches.

- **Assist with the Transition to Modern Building Energy Codes**
Support efforts to transition local governments to modern building energy codes through cohorts and other technical assistance programs that lead to new code adoption. Ensure funding is available for code adoption and implementation, including staffing to support code review and inspections.
- **Support State and Local Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals to Shift from Fossil Fuels Toward Renewable Energy**
~~Support continued availability and affordability of clean and renewable energies and recognize the importance of investments to strengthen the electrical grid to support increasing demand of electric vehicles and electrification. Support increased demand in locally sourced renewable energy production. Support a shift from fossil fuels toward clean and renewable energies, and recognize the importance of investments to strengthen the electrical grid and efforts to transition to electric vehicles and equipment and building electrification. Support community involvement in energy production transitions to ensure a just and equitable economic transition.~~
- **Support Municipal Electric and Electrical Cooperatives in Transitioning Toward Renewable Electricity**
Transition electric cooperatives such as United Power to independently purchase local renewable electricity and implement other measures that reduce greenhouse gas pollution.
- **Support the Availability of Affordable Clean Energy for All Coloradans**
Ensure affordable energy costs, including green-energy programs, for all residents and low-income households. Work to address disparities in access to affordable and clean, renewable energy.

Commented [GR5]: Council Members O'Connor and Mortellaro expressed concerns about this item.

Oil & Gas

- **Provide Adequate Resources and Oversight for the Complete Implementation of SB19-181**
Provide adequate resources for full implementation and oversight associated with SB19-181, including public health oversight of air, soil, and water quality impacts, timely and thorough complaint response, and residential protections for adjacent homeowners. Where State resources are not available, provide aid and support to local government in delivering these services. Strengthen regulation, permitting and enforcement of oil and gas exploration and production in and around populated areas.

- **Ensure the Oil and Gas Sector Meet the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals**
Support measures (such as measurements, tracking, confirmation, etc.) that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas sector by 60% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels, as prescribed by the State's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Roadmap.
- **Ensure State Departments and Oversight Boards Involve Local Governments in Administrative Rule-Making and Decision-Making Regarding Energy Extraction**
Ensure the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) substantively involve local governments affected by energy extraction (oil, natural gas, and geothermal energy) and carbon sequestration, including recognition of local health, safety, and environmental impacts in legislative and administrative decision-making.
- **Require Consistent Utility Pipeline Regulations and Oversight Among Managing Agencies**
Support consistent utility pipeline regulations between agencies involved in their oversight and require cooperation among agencies that manage lands bisected by pipelines. Ensure local governments are involved in developing pipeline regulations and require transparency for locating pipelines.

Landfills & Solid Waste

- **Support Waste Reduction and Diversion Policies That Reduce the Need for Expanding Landfills**

Support waste reduction and diversion policies that reduce the need to expand landfills and reduce the amount of compostable materials, e-waste, and other recyclables that are landfilled and generate methane. The Town of Erie currently has one landfill permitted by the State of Colorado. Colorado's waste diversion rate is 15.9%, which is far behind the national average of 34%. The lack of waste management regulations leads to a growth in demand for landfill space, increased traffic, air, soil, and water quality concerns, and other public health impacts.

Support waste reduction and diversion policies that reduce the need to expand landfills and reduce the amount of compostable materials that are landfilled and generate methane. The Town of Erie currently has one landfill permitted by the State of Colorado to operate as municipal solid waste landfill. Colorado's waste diversion rate is only 15.9% percent, which is far behind the national average of 34%. The lack of State leadership around better management of solid waste results in a direct impact on the Erie community, including a growth in demand for landfill space, increased traffic, air, soil and water quality concerns, and other public health impacts.

Commented [GR6]: Updated for clarity and to add mention of e-waste disposal at the request of Council Member O'Connor.

- **Support Adequate Authority and Resources for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to Meet Solid Waste Diversion Goals**
Ensure that CDPHE has adequate authority and resources to implement plans and policies to meet Colorado's statewide and regional solid waste diversion goals.
- **Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Solid Waste Sites**
Support State investments in greenhouse gas emissions reductions from solid waste sites like local landfills, while incentivize diversion of compostable materials including carbon capture requirements.
- **Increase Monitoring and Compliance of Local Landfills**
Ensure locally owned or operated landfills are compliant with State mandates and regulations through rigorous monitoring, inspections, measurements, and reporting. Support State resources for performing inspections, reviewing the quarterly reports, maintaining quality staff, and regulating landfills.
- **Support Common Standards for Gas Release and Flaring Emissions**
~~Establish common standards across industries for methane gas release and flaring. The Town would support similar requirements as exist for oil and gas. Establish common standards across industries for methane gas release and flaring, such as requirements for oil and gas and landfills.~~
- **Address the Disproportionate Impacts of Environmentally Intensive Activities**
~~Supports policies and regulatory actions that advance environmental justice and protect disproportionately impacted communities from landfills, oil and gas activities, and other environmentally and resource intensive activities.~~

Commented [GR7]: Multiple Council Members requested more information about this. Has been edited for clarity.

Commented [GR8]: Council Members Bell and O'Connor support eliminating entirely.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Economic Health & Vitality

- **Support Local Economies by Providing Incentives and Regulatory Relief to Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs**
Support enhancing the ability of entrepreneurs and small businesses to establish and develop their businesses while providing incentives for investors. Increase the availability of tax credits and other financial incentives for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Protect small businesses and Erie jobs from the impact of burdensome and costly regulations, taxes, and fees.
- **Support Economic Development Incentives to Attract New Businesses to Colorado Towns Like Erie**
Support economic development incentives as critical tools for attracting new business, encouraging expansion of existing business, creating jobs, and stimulating private

investment. Oppose any effort to remove, or restrict, the use of these programs to support local economic development activities in Erie.

- **Increase Programs and Policies That Support Diverse Businesses and Other Minority Business Owners**
Support programs, policies, and funding that address systemic wealth disparities. Provide opportunities for diverse and minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs to receive support and services to equitably participate in the economy.
- **Continue to Support Tax Increment Financing as a Tool to Facilitate New Development and Redevelopment**
Support the ongoing ability to effectively use tax increment financing programs provided by the Colorado Urban Renewal Law and Downtown Development Authority Act to facilitate ongoing development and redevelopment activities in Erie.
- **Provide Funding Assistance to Economic Development Partners at the State and Local Level**
Support State and Federal funding for local economic development partners, including the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation (MDED).

Human Services & Mental Health

- **Ensure County Human Services, Housing, Health, and Mental Health Providers are Adequately Funded to Address the Growing Need for Services in All Communities**
Erie residents along with Coloradans across the State face a significant need for increased access to housing assistance, mental/behavioral health services, health care, food assistance, energy assistance, and other human services. The Town relies on its regional partners, including Boulder and Weld Counties, local non-profits, community health and mental health providers to collaborate and implement programs needed by our residents. The Town supports policy changes that would expand access to health, housing, and all human services and reduce barriers to services and care.

Equity & Inclusion

- **Ensure State and Federal Policies are Developed with a Lens Toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
The Town of Erie supports equitable and inclusive statewide policies. As government institutions, it is the ethical responsibility of the Town and State alike to actively evaluate and resolve institutional discrimination, which can manifest through policies, practices, and behaviors.
- **Dismantle State and Federal Policies that Further Systemic Discrimination**
Erie supports the implementation of State and Federal policy that provides equal opportunity to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental

Commented [GR9]: Council Members Bell, Mortellaro, and O'Connor support eliminating.

ability, mental health status, sexual orientation, gender expression, class, country of origin, income, or other protected classes. The Town supports approaches for programs and policies that all residents have equal access, to foster well-being and belonging. Erie supports the implementation of State and Federal policy that reverses systemic discrimination by race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, mental health status, sexual orientation, gender expression, class, country of origin, income, and other protected classes. The Town supports equitable approaches for programs and policies that advance historically underserved and underrepresented populations to foster well-being and belonging.

Commented [GR10]: This item was moved below under Administration.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Administration

- **Ensure New Programs and Policies Do Not Shift the Administrative Burden and Create Unfunded Mandates for Local Governments**

Colorado municipalities are the implementation arm of numerous State programs. Program and policy changes that require local implementation or shift the administrative burden to local governments should only be made with collaborative discussion and planning with and adequate funding to support policy implementation.

- **Protect the Autonomy of Municipal Courts**

Protect the autonomy of municipal courts while ensuring necessary State oversight for the consistent protection of the constitutional rights of defendants. Oppose limitations on the authority of municipalities to enforce their own ordinances in municipal courts.

- **Protect Municipalities' Ability to Determine and Charge Local Fees and Requirements to Offset the Costs of Services**

Support municipal discretion concerning the imposition of fees and requirements, including the authority to charge development fees, research and retrieval fees for open records requests, and other fees for services that impact the organization and community.

Community Policing

- **Provide State and Federal Funding to Support the Availability of Behavioral Health Services in Law Enforcement Response for Perpetrators, Victims and Officers**

Support State funding and technical assistance for regional and local public safety programs that partner mental and behavioral health professionals and law enforcement for contacts with individuals with mental and behavioral health issues.

- Continue to Allow Local Law Enforcement the Option for Police to Enforce Federal Laws, Including Immigration Laws, without Mandate

Support preserving the option for Town police officers to enforce federal laws, including federal immigration laws, while vigorously opposing any State or federal legislation that mandates that its police enforce federal immigration laws, especially if they are unfunded mandates ~~or are likely to result in enforcement officers engaging in racial profiling or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.~~

- Ensure State and Federal Programs in Support of Community Policing Do Not Increase or Duplicate Reporting Requirements

Prevent the imposition of onerous information gathering and reporting requirements on public safety, especially when those requirements come with substantial costs that are not supported by adequate funding.

Emergency Response

- Support Increased State and Federal Funding for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Mitigation, Response, and Recovery

Support State and federal financial support and resources to assist local governments with disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery in their communities.