MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As Boise State University has become Idaho’s metropolitan university of distinction and its capital city builds the economy and the leaders of the future, the campus has experienced abundant growth. This update to the University Master Plan builds on past plans and focuses on providing a framework for how the university can, and indeed must, continue to grow and evolve with purpose and strategy. The plan has been developed with thoughtful input gathered from a multitude of stakeholders including students, neighbors, administrators, faculty, staff and the Boise community.

At Boise State University, we are committed to providing signature, high-quality educational experiences in a timely manner to each of our students, to gaining distinction as a doctoral research university and to aligning our programs and activities with community needs. Boise State’s vision and strategic direction are reflected in the 2015 Campus Master Plan, based on the work of the Boise State Master Plan Committee and planners Ayers Saint Gross. The partnership not only works toward fulfilling the strategic plan goals, but also meets the goals of the Master Plan itself, including flexibility to meet changing 21st Century demands, integrating the Boise River Greenbelt into campus, reinforcing a pedestrian campus environment and reflecting our identity as an urban university and a good neighbor. In addition, the 2015 Campus Master Plan delivers a vision for future growth in new expansion areas.

This has been an exciting time in Boise State’s more than 80-year history, and this campus is committed to continuing our unique trajectory in establishing an innovative, responsive, nationally-renowned metropolitan research university of distinction that will help lead Boise, the state of Idaho and the American West for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Kustra
President, Boise State University
The Boise State University campus has undergone a significant transformation since the first campus master plan in 1998. Since then, each master plan update has looked back to document major accomplishments, and looked forward to provide a vision of the campus and facilities needed to meet the projected needs of the institution within the ever-changing context of higher education.

In just over 80 years, Boise State has grown from a local commuter college into a major state and regional institution on the cusp of a national presence. With continued growth of Boise State programs and enrollment, and a substantial increase in the number of students living on campus or close by, this urban university on the Boise River has acquired the sense of place of an historic campus with a residential college feeling. In the Observation workshops, faculty and staff noted that the multi-faceted mission of Boise State has become more traditional in focus, with a growing number of upper level transfer students, graduate students and doctoral degree candidates. In Fall 2014, almost 22% of Boise State students were from out-of-state, and that percentage is projected to continue increasing. Enrollment today is just over 22,000 students and while the rate of increase in enrollment has slowed, and is assumed to continue at a “slow and steady” rate, the campus master plan has the capacity to accommodate growth to 30,000 to 35,000 over the next 20–30 years.
GOALS FOR THE UPDATE

A master plan is one of the three most critical tools for campus development:

‘What’ – a Strategic Plan sets direction for the institution;

‘Where’ – a master plan maps out the physical development required to realize the Strategic Plan;

‘How’ – a financial plan facilitates the implementation of the Master Plan and the Strategic Plan.

The 2015 plan is intended to be an update of the previous campus plan: updating the maps to reflect completed projects; integrating current plans and projects in design or construction phases; analyzing the current master plan and its capacity to meet projected needs; and developing and evaluating alternatives for development of the southern expansion study area. Plans for the expansion area should be strategic, visionary yet realistic, responsive but flexible enough to meet changing needs, sustainable and implementable.

Campus stakeholders:
University Leadership
Academic-Research Colleges
Athletics
Residence Life
Student Health + Recreation
Taco Bell Arena, Morrison Center
Faculty + Staff
Students

Community stakeholders:
Planning, City of Boise
ADA County Highway District
Valley Regional Transit
Neighborhood Associations

MASTER PLANNING PROCESS + TIMELINE

The planning process starts with the belief that the principles guiding the physical design and character of the campus are the same as those which guide the academic mission. This notion of reciprocity between an institution’s academic mission and its physical plan is at the foundation of master planning. The process was centered around the workshop – intensive hands-on working sessions conducted on campus. During each workshop, the planning team engaged the university community in fact-finding, analysis, dialogue, exploration of alternatives and decision making. The results of each workshop were documented as the plan was developed and advanced into the next phase. A broadly representative Steering Committee was established to lead the planning process and an Executive Committee was designated to provide leadership and decision-making (see Acknowledgements for list of members). The planners met with major campus stakeholders to identify current issues, needs and future projections; meetings included representatives of academics and research, Albertsons Library, Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts, Residence Life, Student Recreation, Student Union, Athletics, Taco Bell Arena, Transportation and Parking Services, Campus Security, and community stakeholders including Boise City Planning and the Ada County Highway Department (ACHHD).

The Boise State master plan update was kicked-off in August 2013, with workshops and forums held during the fall and spring semesters. A list of all the master plan meetings, workshops and presentations is included in the Appendix. The master plan was presented to the State Board for adoption in August 2015.

2012 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 1: Create a signature, high-quality educational experience for all students.
Goal 2: Facilitate the timely attainment of educational goals of our diverse student population.
Goal 3: Gain distinction as a doctoral research university.
Goal 4: Align university programs and activities with community needs.
Goal 5: Transform our operations to serve the contemporary mission of the university.
The Boise State campus has grown rapidly, adding significant new facilities to meet increasing demand in the Boise area and the greater northwest region. The previous master plans have each served as effective guides to campus development and they formed the foundation for the 2015 master plan update. The update began with documenting the existing campus to reflect projects completed since 2008.

Projects completed since the 2005 Master Plan and 2008 update: (highlighted in color on the 2008 plan at right)
- Micron Business and Economics Building
- Interactive Learning Center
- Arguschora Basketball Complex
- Caven-Williams Sports Complex
- Gene Beymann Football Complex
- Stuckey Sky Center
- Alumni Stadium Improvements
- Environmental Research Building
- Student Union Building Expansion
- Transit Center
- Lincoln Avenue Garage
- Nexus Building
- Aquatics Center
- Lincoln Townhouses
- Intramural and Recreational Sports Field
- Administrative Building Phase + Parking Lot Enhancement

Projects starting construction or in active design phases at the start of the 2015 update:
- Sports/Recreation Field
- Alumni and Friends Center Building
- Fine Arts Building
- Materials Science Building
ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

Updating the campus master plan requires an in-depth understanding of the existing planning context and identification of the issues and opportunities which need to be specifically addressed by the update. The planning team gathered background data and walked the campus with faculty, staff and students. The Observations workshop identified and mapped out the following key ‘Issues + Opportunities’ which the 2015 master plan update was charged with addressing:

- Campus Identity, Gateways + Edges
- Transformations
- Connectivity
- Circulation for Pedestrians + Bikes + Transit
- Expansion Area Land Use
Observations

The planning team held open forums for staff and faculty and conducted a campus ‘walk-about’ with students. Students told the planners they wanted:

- more on-campus housing
- more outdoor spaces, both hardscape and landscape
- plugs + wifi (esp in outdoor spaces)
- learning commons (not book cemeteries)
- more + better food options
- consolidated student services
- improved wayfinding elements
- campus character enhanced through consistent design and materials

Visioning

The visioning workshop sessions asked members of the Master Plan Update Steering Committee to look forward and envision the future campus. From the many responses five themes emerged:

Vision: Colleges with stronger identity and cohesion for faculty and programs. How can faculty connect with students when everything is decentralized?

Vision: Consolidated facilities, including academic, research and student services, with opportunities for increased student and faculty interaction and cross disciplinary learning and research.

Vision: Expanded central campus pedestrian space (with vehicles and roads moved to the perimeter).

Vision: Non-traditional, diverse student body fully engaged in the cultural life of the campus.

Vision: Vibrant residential life for all freshman creating ‘community’ even for those not living on campus.
OPEN SPACE + LANDSCAPE

The campus core has a pastoral landscape character with open lawns and broad expanses of planting which have been done by the university for decades. These create a sense of place, a pastoral atmosphere which provides a counterpoint to the newer STEM district. The older buildings have strong geometries and the landscape is more established. This provides a unique sense of place.
The Boise State campus developed as a traditional college campus, with a central academic core surrounded by student housing, recreation and athletic precincts. But the orientation of the original Administration Building and the central quad facing the Boise River resulted in a long narrow campus along the waterfront, with University Drive functioning as the ‘back door’ entrance to the campus. As the campus grew, student housing and a few academic and support functions jumped to the south side of University Drive. Then Boise State began a major campus expansion, south of University Drive on the eastern end of the campus. The 2005 master plan focused on this expansion area and development of a new STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) district including the new Environmental Research Building and the Norco Building. The diagram at left illustrates how the original center of the campus has been pinched between the river and University Drive, pushing growth to the east and west ends of the campus. The result is that even academic uses are scattered around the campus perimeter and the mission-critical academic core is stretched beyond the distance that can be easily covered during a typical class change.

Student housing is woven throughout the campus, enhancing a residential campus feeling. But student services (dining, student union, etc.) are more concentrated causing some student complaints about the distances. Recreation and athletics, especially field space, has been squeezed by the expansion of other core mission facilities, so two satellite facilities have been developed within walking distance of the campus. The 2015 master plan update will focus on the central campus expansion to the south, considering the most appropriate land uses and facilities to support projected growth and the next phase of campus development.
ACADEMIC

The central academic core of the campus is organized around the traditional main quad which is compact and walkable with a good sense of scale. The addition of the popular Interactive Learning Center (ILC) just west of the main quad and the recently completed Micron Business and Economics Building even further west at Capitol Boulevard and University Drive, may have shifted the academic center of gravity, but this core area is still very accessible for students and faculty.

Similarly the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) district, with the completion of the Environmental Research Building and the Norco Building (School of Nursing and University Health Services) is also starting to feel like a more cohesive academic district. But these two academic areas feel disconnected and the distance between them presents logistical challenges to undergraduates who have classes in both areas. The disconnect is even more of a challenge to science and engineering majors who feel cut off and isolated from the rest of campus. Connecting these two academic districts will be a high priority for the master plan.

LAND USE + FACILITIES

Similarly the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) district, with the completion of the Environmental Research Building and the Norco Building (School of Nursing and University Health Services) is also starting to feel like a more cohesive academic district. But these two academic areas feel disconnected and the distance between them presents logistical challenges to undergraduates who have classes in both areas. The disconnect is even more of a challenge to science and engineering majors who feel cut off and isolated from the rest of campus. Connecting these two academic districts will be a high priority for the master plan.
For many years, Boise State primarily served Ada County and the Boise metro area and students commuted to the campus. When student housing was added, it was designed primarily for freshmen and sited around the campus perimeter. More recently, the campus has added apartment-style housing on the southern edges of the campus to appeal to sophomores and upper division students, including the Lincoln Townhomes which opened in 2013. The result is a good distribution of housing around the campus, although students expressed a desire for more on-campus housing and a greater variety of housing types and communities. Students housed on the western edge of the campus expressed a feeling of isolation and complained about the distance to get to the only dining hall on campus, located in the Student Union Building.
The Boise State strategic plan goals include increasing student engagement on campus and recreational activities, intramural and club sports, and participation in athletics all contribute to a student’s sense of engagement in campus life. As student housing on campus has increased, demand for recreational facilities has also increased. The Student Recreation Center was expanded in 2012 with a recreational pool. But this facility is still hoping to add more indoor courts and studio space (yoga, spin, Zumba, etc.). Some of the newer student housing provides recreation spaces for residents, and the site design often includes some outdoor space, but these are generally small informal recreational spaces intended for community-building rather than meeting recreational program needs.

Demand for field space, for both practice and competition, has continued to grow and finding space for large playing fields within the campus boundaries is increasingly difficult. A new multipurpose recreational field on the west side of Lincoln Avenue is very popular and highly utilized. The largest open field space on campus, just north of the Student Union Building, is used for recreational sports and as an athletics practice field. But this location in the heart of the campus has sometimes presented conflicts. The trees at the west end of the space aren’t ideal for a playing field and when the field is fully fenced, the walkways outside the Student Union feel squeezed as students detour around the field to get from the center of campus to the science and engineering precincts. A new athletics practice field located southeast of this area (completed in 2014) may ease demands on the central open space. But the Student Union Building would benefit greatly from more versatile outside spaces with a well-designed combination of hardscape (for setting up tables for student clubs and activities) and landscaped open space.
Land Use + Facilities

Athletics

Over the last several years, significant improvements to athletic facilities have been completed and the university has developed additional sports venues close to the campus, convenient for both practice and competitions, including: the Boas Tennis/Soccer Complex; and facilities in Dona Larsen Park and Storey Park in Meridian, among others. The 2013 move of the College of Western Idaho (CWI) community college to a new campus opened up a potential site for a much needed athletics practice field (which was completed in 2014). As the rest of the CWI programs are moved to the new western campus, more prime building sites along University Drive will become available. The master plan update should consider the most appropriate uses for these sites.

The 2005 master plan located a major parking ramp at the University Drive entrance to the stadium which should be reconsidered given the location of the new football practice field facility. Clear circulation, easy access and expanded parking are critical to sports and event venues, both on school days and on game days. The master plan needs to consider improvements for pedestrian access and athletics events and celebrations (parking, tailgating, entrances, plaza, etc.). The combination of expanded athletics facilities, parking demand and event tailgating logistics has made this area of the campus feel very car-dominated, and even the existing pedestrian walkways and entrances at each building feel cramped. Past master plans have tried to create a walking route through this precinct to the river and this desire for better connections to the greenbelt was expressed in the planning workshops. Significant future facility needs for this precinct include replacement or major renovation of the Bronco Gymnasium and the Kinesiology Annex (pool); building system upgrades and ADA improvements (lobbies, restrooms) to the Taco Bell Arena; and Albertsons Stadium upgrades to the east side entrances, lobbies, restrooms and concession facilities, in addition to completing the north end stadium seating.
A welcoming pedestrian-oriented environment is the number one characteristic of a traditional college campus. The historic center of the Boise State campus has the traditional qualities that appeal to potential students visiting the campus. But like most campuses, the character of the campus changes as you move further away from the academic core, becoming less pedestrian-oriented and more auto-dominated. Each master plan has recommended pedestrian improvements and the campus edge along the river and greenbelt has been improved significantly. This edge of the campus is unique to Boise and the pedestrian ‘feeling’ of the greenbelt should continue to be enhanced and extended throughout the campus.

Over time, a major east-west pedestrian route has developed through the academic core of the campus, winding past the Student Union Building to the engineering and sciences buildings in the southern expansion area. This route includes sidewalks, plazas, shared-use paths and paths dedicated to bikes or pedestrians. The new Micron College of Business and Economics Building project extended this path all the way to the western edge of the campus, but much of that expanded route traverses streets and parking lots. At the eastern end the path devolves into multiple routes along and across University Drive, adding to the perception that the new STEM district isn’t well integrated with the rest of the academic core of the campus.

In the center of the campus, many pedestrian and bike paths feed into this central ‘pedway’, such as the path from the Friendship Bridge across the river. But there are also many smaller streets, driveways and parking lots which detract from the pedestrian character. With the expansion of the campus, more students are crossing busy streets (not always at the intersections) which is a significant safety concern.

CIRCULATION + TRANSPORTATION

PEDESTRIAN

The campus is relatively compact, with the academic core within the 5 minute walk radius (from the center of the campus) and all of the campus fitting within the 10 minute walking radius. But that’s 25 minutes from one end of campus to the other, and with the STEM district expansion, it is becoming increasingly difficult for students to get across campus during the class change period. Fixing this academic core compact and well connected with pedestrian and bike paths (and frequent circulator buses) will be key to gaining the academic facility while maintaining a viable class schedule.
The campus is well served by the Boise River Greenbelt bike path and the bridges crossing the river including the Friendship Bridge in the heart of the campus. Bike culture is very prevalent with significant quantities of bike racks across the campus and a bike repair shop and secure bike storage facility in the Lincoln and Brady garages.

After the 2008 master plan update, a ‘Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Master Plan’ was developed with extensive student input. Recommendations from this plan which have been implemented include:

• Adopting a new standard for bike racks that are more efficient and secure
• Education about bike and pedestrian safety
• Demarcation of a ‘pedestrian priority/dismount zone’ where the main pedestrian pathway winds through the central quad in front of the Albertsons Library and Main Administration Building. Major bike parking areas were added at each end of the zone, along with signage on the main path.
• Signed shared-use pedestrian/bike paths and designated bike routes within the campus

The 2014 addition of bike lanes on University Drive in conjunction with a ‘pedestrian priority/dismount zone’ seems to have greatly improved on-campus bike circulation. Ada County has a bicycle master plan ‘Roadways to Bikeways’ to expand bicycle routes and the new University Drive bike lanes are part of this network. Planned improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure should be incorporated into this master plan update.
Transit systems are critical to support a more pedestrian-oriented campus. Bus service and ridership on the campus continues to grow, and transit strategies from the earlier master plans continue to be implemented. The new Transit Center addition to the Student Union Building, at the corner of University Drive and Lincoln Avenue, serves as a central point for the coordination of transit services. The master plan update should take this center into account when considering the campus transportation network and future transit routes.

Transit issues to be addressed include:

- Improving convenience and access
- Improving the size/capacity and quality of campus shuttle buses
- Expanding the on-campus circulator with more frequent service
- Reducing and/or eliminating auto traffic on transit routes (including all or part of Cesar Chavez Lane) or operating shuttles on future malls or plazas which are closed to auto traffic
- Working with community partners (City of Boise, ACHD, VRT) to develop a “downtown circulator route” to connect the campus with programs located downtown
- Coordinating the Boise State bus schedules and routes with City and regional transit
- Working with Valley Regional Transit (VRT) to expand routes and hours of service.
For decades, University Drive defined the campus perimeter, with the academic buildings and major university infrastructure located between University Drive and the Boise River. But with significant campus growth, University Drive is becoming the center of campus, presenting significant challenges to campus connectivity and pedestrian safety.

Vehicles primarily enter the Boise State University campus using University Drive at Capitol Boulevard, or at Broadway if coming from the east. Studies show that traffic on University Drive is primarily internal campus traffic, with fewer than 5% 'drive-through' trips.

The 2012 Boise State University Campus Circulation Plan, based on the 2008 campus master plan, provided an implementation plan balancing pedestrian and vehicular access needs. Some of the plan’s recommendations for making University Drive more pedestrian and bicycle friendly include:

• Reducing street width (to three lanes) between Brady and Beacon Streets
• Adding bike lanes (completed in 2013) and transit pull-outs
• Implementing safety enhancements, including pedestrian crossing improvements (crossing signal at Chrisway was installed, and a new crossing on Beacon Street is scheduled for implementation).
• Translating the portion of University Drive between the Student Union Building and the Lincoln Garage and Student Recreation Center (Lincoln Avenue to Euclid Avenue) into a multi-modal plaza where pedestrians and cyclists are prioritized, and vehicular traffic is encouraged to use alternate routes (redesign is in planning phase)

Additional recommendations focused on maintaining key circulation routes in the south-east area of the campus (STEM district) and enhancing the campus bicycle network and connectivity to local bike lanes and trails.

The biggest challenges for traffic, both for vehicles and pedestrians, are on Capitol Boulevard. When traffic operations at key intersections were evaluated as part of the Campus Circulation Plan, only the University Drive/Capitol Boulevard intersection received a failing grade. This is already a large intersection constrained by significant adjacent buildings, so further study will be needed to determine what types of improvements might be possible to accommodate projected traffic growth.

Capitol Boulevard is a critical link to downtown Boise and the intersection of Capitol Boulevard and University Drive is most utilized entrance into the Boise State University campus. The planned redevelopment of the Lusk Street area, including several large apartment developments which are targeting the student housing market, will result in even more pedestrians and bicyclists trying to cross Capitol Boulevard and greatly impact the capacity of this intersection to accommodate projected traffic growth.

VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

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Parking is a significant driver of land use on college campuses, often exceeding the academic core in actual land used (as illustrated by the diagram at right). While planning should support relocation of parking to favor increased green space and to open up building sites for new facilities, accessible parking in the heart of the campus will continue to be a necessity.

Boise State has been making significant progress in transforming the character of the campus through effective parking management strategies. Since the 1998 master plan, Boise State has added the Brady Garage and the Lincoln Garage to address parking needs and reduce surface parking lots. The concentration of cars in these locations has increased conflicts between cars and pedestrians on University Drive and demonstrated the importance of careful siting and design of major parking structures. The Lincoln Garage is located in the busiest area of the campus, directly across from the Student Union Building and the Student Recreation Center, which are both major pedestrian destinations. The opening of a new recreation field on Lincoln Avenue and new student housing immediately south of the garage have only added to the conflicts. The university is addressing this issue with significant pedestrian safety improvements to University Drive east of the Lincoln intersection and the master plan should include strategies to shift auto traffic off this portion of University Drive.

Boise State Transportation and Parking demand management strategies include: a permit system with assigned zones or lots and pricing incentives; expanding campus transit; and improving bicycle infrastructure. Significant increases in student housing, both on and off campus, also reduce on-campus parking needed. This plan update will continue the strategies developed in the earlier master plans, improving the pedestrian-oriented heart of the campus and reducing pavement by moving cars into parking structures close to campus entrances and major event venues and destinations. Previous master plans identified as many as five new parking garage sites on University Drive, all of which should be reevaluated.

Parking Structures

Surface Parking Lots
INFRASTRUCTURE + SUSTAINABILITY

SYSTEMS + UTILITIES

Development and expansion of buildings and facilities on the Boise State University campus is dependent on supporting infrastructure, especially access and capacity for essential utilities (power, water, sewer, etc.). Planning for the future requires a thorough understanding of the existing utility conditions and an implementation strategy for the under served campus expansion areas. The Observations assessments noted the following:

- The existing network of utilities is based on the existing system of streets (mostly a residential street and alley grid), access drives and major pedestrian pathways; any modification of the street network, especially to create larger building sites, may require utility relocations.
- Lack of a utility master plan and process for infrastructure planning results in conflicts and deficiencies.
- Aging systems are inefficient and can break unexpectedly; a schedule for upgrade and replacement should be part of a utilities master plan, coordinated with the campus master plan’s implementation plans.
- The campus central plant, which is actually the oldest building on the campus, is insufficient to support future development of the expansion areas; sites for satellite plants should be identified in the master plan.
- Managing storm water runoff conflicts with managing water for campus irrigation, and older areas of the campus discharge storm water runoff directly into the river.
- The city geothermal line serves the campus and is expanding as new university projects come on board, offering energy savings but new buildings still need back-up heating/cooling building systems.
- In the newer STEM district, campus lighting has been improved; replacement of older lighting with new fixtures, consistent with a campus standard, should be implemented across the campus.

Individual maps of the existing major utilities routes on campus follow.
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY - Master Plan 2015 Update

OBSERVATIONS

- Power (electrical)
- Geothermal
- Chilled Water
- Gas Piping
- Sanitary Sewer
- Potable Water
- Storm Drains
- Irrigation
- Campus Lighting

Source: Boise State University Master Plan 2015 Update
In 2007, President Kustra joined more than 400 college & university leaders by signing the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment to work toward achieving climate neutrality. As a respected academic institute with ambitions to "gain distinction as a doctoral research university", Boise State University is positioned to lead the region in developing, demonstrating and teaching approaches to development which enhance resilience and sustainability. The campus benefits from a remarkable location with natural resources which offer opportunities for greater efficiency and sustainability.

- In cooperation with the City, the university has embraced the expansion of the geothermal infrastructure to provide building climate control.
- Boise State has purchased wind power credits to power the Morrison Residence Hall.
- Green or vegetative roofs have been integrated into some new building projects, both for storm water management/treatment and for the educational value.
- Bee hives on the roof of the Student Union Building produce honey, which is sold on campus, and support bee pollination for healthier plant culture on campus.
- Boise State has employed a data-driven irrigation system that delivers water based on meteorological conditions, to reduce overwatering; the campus irrigation system is also recycling water, recharging the aquifer.
- Xeriscape and drip irrigation installations are being used to reduce water use in this semi-arid environment.
- Pervious concrete and permeable pavers have been used for onsite storm water retention on recent projects.
- Solar panels on roof of the Aquatics Center provide the primary source of heating for the pools.
- All recently constructed buildings have employed energy saving measures to exceed current energy code requirements.
- New buildings are operating 30-40% more efficiently than the code requires due to energy modeling, design for efficiency and geothermal heating.

Students attending the open forums and the campus walk-about expressed more interest in environmental stewardship and sustainability than any other single aspect of the campus. Several expressed the desire to actively participate in projects which use the campus as a ‘living laboratory’ to research, demonstrate and educate with the goal of fostering sustainability within the larger community.
CONCEPT PLAN

PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Underlying all campus master plans are broader concepts, like strands weaving the fabric of the campus together, which create the conceptual framework upon which the more detailed plan is developed. The Observations workshop established the planning context and started to describe a vision for the future. The Concepts workshop defined guiding principles for these underlying strands to develop a broad strokes conceptual framework plan, like a sketch before a painting.

The 2015 update based this concept plan on the 2005-08 planning principles:

A. Flexibility to meet changing 21st Century demands
B. Integrate the Boise River Greenbelt into the campus
C. Reinforce a Pedestrian Campus Environment
D. Urban University and Good Neighbor

The Concepts workshop also allowed the planning team to test various land use alternatives for campus development. Four alternatives were developed, all of which were responsive to the framework principles, but taking different approaches developing the campus expansion areas.
CONCEPT PLAN

A. FLEXIBILITY TO MEET CHANGING 21ST CENTURY DEMANDS

- Identify project sites that can accommodate future use
- Group facilities to promote interdisciplinary programs and research
- Plan flexible indoor and outdoor spaces for informal study and student gatherings
- Anticipate the need for expansion, modifications and upgrades to existing facilities
- Build at least 4 stories tall when feasible, for efficiency and to conserve land for future development
- Equip all new buildings for changing technology
- Plan infrastructure for utilities and services to support the planned and future development

LEGEND:

Flexible New Development
B. INTEGRATE BOISE RIVER GREENBELT INTO CAMPUS

- Reinforce a pedestrian environment along the greenbelt
- Create gathering spaces adjacent to the greenbelt and the river
- Link internal open spaces and paths to the greenbelt
- Orient new building views, entrances, plazas and open spaces to the greenbelt
- Develop appropriate access to the waters edge
- Treat the waterfront as the front yard not a service zone
- Limit vehicular circulation along the greenbelt
- Increase access to Julia Davis Park and downtown Boise
C. REINFORCE A PEDESTRIAN CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

- Provide a consistent, connected system of open spaces and pathways
- Provide places to stop, rest and gather, with appropriate lighting, power/WiFi and site furnishings
- Develop a hierarchy of paths to create a cohesive and connected system
- Give priority to pedestrians, cyclists and transit users
- Provide supportive infrastructure, including well marked and lighted dedicated paths for pedestrians and bikers, secure bike racks/storage, appropriate ‘go slow’ or dismount zones, bus shelters and pull-outs
- Provide enhanced street and path crossings and intersections designed for pedestrian safety
- Provide multiple links to the Boise River and greenbelt
- Discourage auto traffic on University Drive
- Develop peripheral parking structures with direct paths to major destinations and campus core
- Reduce the size of surface parking lots, so parking does not dominate or disrupt pedestrian circulation
- Dispense surface parking lots to provide accessible spaces close to all campus facilities
- Work collectively with the City of Boise and Ada County Highway Department to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety on all campus streets, but especially on Capitol Boulevard and University Drive
D. URBAN UNIVERSITY AND GOOD NEIGHBOR

- Provide a positive sense of campus arrival
- Define campus edges with signage, landscaping + streetscaping
- Encourage commercial and mixed-use development on appropriate campus edges
- Activate the campus 24/7 with residential + recreational + entertainment + cultural uses
- Provide appropriate transitions at campus edge with compatible uses adjacent to neighborhoods
- Complement efforts to revitalize downtown Boise
- Work collectively with the City of Boise and Ada County Highway Department to improve safety on Capitol Boulevard and all major street surrounding the campus
The 2015 Master Plan started with the update of the previous master plans to reflect the changes in the campus over the last 8-10 years, and then expanded the plan to provide a comprehensive guide to the future development of the campus south of University Drive. This plan is visionary and yet highly pragmatic, setting out a well-defined network of new streets and infrastructure which will support growth while allowing flexibility for the campus to develop in response to future needs.

This plan grappled with some of the most challenging areas of the campus, including opening up the central quad to the Greenbelt and the Boise River; the difficult intersection of academic, athletics and entertainment uses which occur around the Kinesiology Annex, Bronco Gym, Taco Bell Arena and the Albertsons Stadium; and the transformation of University Drive from a perimeter vehicular route to the central pedestrian mall.

This section addresses the areas assessed in the observation phase:

- Open Space + Landscape
- Land Uses + Facilities (academic, housing, recreation + athletics)
- Circulation + Transportation
- Infrastructure + Sustainability

The plan for each campus precinct is presented at the end of this section and described in greater detail.
The 2015 master plan update uses landscape and open spaces to enhance the pedestrian quality and character of the campus. The plan embraces the Greenbelt by opening the historic central quad to the Boise River, adding terraces to the north side of Albertsons Library, improving the Friendship Bridge, adding new access to the river, and allowing for a new pedestrian bridge crossing. The Greenbelt is woven into the campus with improved pedestrian corridors extending to the southernmost edges of the expanded campus. The master plan proposes major new open spaces and landscaped corridors which include:

- "B" plaza celebrating the historic Administration Building and marking the heart of the campus
- Renovated historic quad expanded to the river front (with the removal of Riverfront Hall)
- University Mall, transforming the center of the campus from a street to a traditional university 'mall'
- Streetscaping University Drive east of Lincoln to prioritize pedestrians and manage vehicular traffic
- New Arts green as the eastern terminus of the central campus pedway (replacing surface parking)
- New Library Mall extending a formal, tree lined pedestrian corridor to the south across University Drive and through the expansion area connecting to planned student housing and ‘live-learn’ communities
- Redesigned Student Union plaza with a landscaped green and enhanced pedestrian and bike paths
- New plazas and enhancements to the Broadway Avenue gateway
- New quadrangles in the STEM and Health Sciences precinct and the central expansion area with a variety of inviting, interactive gathering spaces with tables, benches, power/WiFi, lighting and landscaping
- Larger open spaces, including four multi-use fields for student recreation and athletics
- New greenway connecting to the river and improving water quality by daylighting an existing stormwater pipe and demonstrating best practices in stormwater and surface runoff filtration and management.
LAND USE + FACILITIES

ACADEMIC

The updated master plan expands facilities to support the University core mission functions: academic departments, research programs and student resources, services and support. The plan illustrates over 20 new academic building sites adding capacity for over 2 million square feet of new facilities. In the STEM district, seven sites are identified for science, engineering and health sciences facilities. In the expansion study area, new academic and research facilities line the south side of University (converted to a central mall by diverting traffic to the new Center Street) expanding the academic core of the campus. The main Administration building is reflected on the south side of the mall, to house expansion of student services and university administration.

To connect the academic center of the campus with the expanding STEM district, sites for new academic buildings are located along the central pedway opposite the Student Union Building, north of University Drive. The first of these academic buildings is intended as a shared resource with classrooms, learning labs and a large lecture hall to facilitate class scheduling and cross-disciplinary interaction. The integration of these shared academic resources should support student engagement with quiet spaces for individual and group study and active community spaces for non-traditional students and impromptu gatherings both indoors and outdoors.
The updated campus master plan strives to enhance a sense of community and belonging while adding capacity for over 2000 new student beds, potentially doubling the number of students living on campus. Residence Life intends to close some older, outlying facilities (Steeves and the apartment complex west of Capitol Boulevard) creating a need for an additional 300-600 replacement beds. The plan creates new live-learn communities on the University Drive mall, starting with a residential Honors College. The southern half of the new expansion area, between Center Street and Boise Avenue, is planned to accommodate a variety of new housing communities. These range from traditional freshman dorms to student villages grouped around student interests, majors or organizations (including Greek life or campus ministries) and graduate student or staff/faculty housing to be developed in partnership with the University. The plan illustrates opportunities for enhancing student community and engagement, including new dining and retail facilities; space for student clubs, ministries and other organizations; and expanded recreation facilities (two full intramural recreation fields). The result is a plan which supports a more fully integrated and engaged 24/7 student life experience.
This master plan update significantly expands all aspects of student life on campus with an integrated approach to housing and recreation in addition to significant expansion of athletic facilities. The plan builds on recent investments in recreation, adding a second field to the existing recreation field on Lincoln Avenue, along with a new retail food concession and/or full dining satellite, and surrounding this popular facility with new student housing communities. An additional recreational field and pavilion is planned along Boise Avenue as an amenity for future student housing development, as well as an open space buffer between the campus and the adjacent neighborhood. Locating these facilities near major parking facilities will ensure that all students can use these facilities, not just the students living on campus, and supports the community-building aspects of intramural and club sports. The Student Recreation Center is also proposed to expand, with indoor practice courts and studios. The relocation of Kinesiology on the proposed Health Sciences quad (adjacent to the Norco building) will facilitate program synergies and shared use of both recreation center facilities and adjacent sports training facilities.

In the athletics precinct, the replacement of the Kinesiology Annex (including the pool) and the Bronco Gym allow the center of the precinct to be opened up to improve connectivity between the athletics facilities and the Student Union Building and central ‘pedway’. The plan illustrates proposed pedestrian improvements around the athletics practice field with improved entrance plazas, and expanded ADA and VIP parking serving the Albertsons Stadium and the Taco Bell Arena. The plan expands the precinct to the south with a new Natatorium, a 5000 seat fieldhouse for Olympic sports, and a major parking structure.
When Boise State University was founded, the campus proudly faced the river and all of the academic buildings opened to the central quadrangle, entered from a well developed network of pedestrian paths. The 2015 plan seeks to restore that traditional approach by expanding the major pedestrian paths through the campus and connecting to new academic quadrangles in the expansion precincts. The expansion of the campus across University Drive allows for significant new academic quads within a 5 minute walk of the existing campus center. Keeping the academic core compact and well connected with pedestrian paths is vital to future growth.

This plan more than doubles the pedestrian ‘center’ of the campus, moving vehicular traffic and major parking structures closer to campus entrances. The plan creates a new circulation network which facilitates the management of vehicular traffic to prioritize pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, long boarders and transit riders. This is a significant change of direction for the Boise State University Master Plan, which in the past has placed great emphasis on the desire for a pedestrian oriented environment, while trying to maintain the existing network of streets and parking lots that stood in direct conflict with that desire.

Remarkably, the expansion of the campus southward toward Boise Avenue will have the effect of making the campus more compact and more walkable, while providing substantial capacity for future growth. The precinct plans describe the proposed improvements and new pedestrian corridors in greater detail.

The master plan illustrates the transformation of University Drive (rerouted to the new Center Street) to create a traditional University Mall, lined with academic buildings of substance and character, including the historic Administration Building.
Improved bicycle infrastructure is a major component of the 2015 master plan. Input from the 2010 ‘Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Master Plan’ was incorporated into the planning process, with an emphasis on both safety and connectivity. While the campus is well served by regional bike paths, there are surprisingly few well-identified, dedicated or separated bikeways on campus. Connecting existing and new bike paths, and striping bike paths on popular routes where separated or dedicated paths aren’t feasible, will keep cyclists safer and reduce conflicts with pedestrians (and the many longboarders on this campus).

The master plan proposes expanding the bicycle ‘bypass’ which was developed for the very congested section of the central pedway just north of the Student Union Building. The existing pedestrian path which winds around the Union would be expanded, with plaza areas for events or for student organizations to set up tables. The bike path would take a more direct route north from the Beacon Street crossing at Manitou Street through the STEM district. The central bike path would continue diagonally across the campus to intersect the central pedway at the ‘pedestrian priority/dismount zone’, where bike parking areas have been expanded. The plan identifies connecting routes, north to the Greenbelt or south to University Drive, encouraging cyclists to go around this zone as they continue through the campus.

The master plan proposes an additional pedestrian/bike bridge crossing the river with several routes leading into the campus. Improvements planned for the Athletics district around Albertsons Stadium, Taco Bell Arena and the new Sports Recreation Field, prioritize the pedestrian and make walking and biking connections easier.

Bike culture should continue to be supported with significant quantities of bike racks and secure bike storage in new facilities and future parking garages. As bike paths are expanded on campus, every effort should be made to facilitate good connections to the local and regional bicycle network.

River crossings should be designed and planned to accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians safely. The Broadway Bridge project to be completed by 2017 will separate sidewalks and bike lanes, improving access to this end of the campus. Improvements should also be made to the popular Friendship Bridge (including widening for designated bike lanes) and the bridge landing at Cesar Chavez needs to be expanded and redesigned to handle the mix traffic with a minimum of conflicts. Restricting cars on this street could facilitate this redesign and improve safety.
**TRANSIT**

Transit strategies from the earlier master plan continue to be developed to support a more pedestrian-oriented campus. Transportation and Parking Services operates the campus bus system (previously contracted), recently inverting in newer, larger buses which will increase service capacity significantly. The size of the campus, combined with relatively mild weather and an ‘outdoorsy’ culture of walking and biking has kept on-campus bus ridership relatively low. But as the campus grows, students will use shuttles to get across campus if they are operated efficiently and have capacity to meet the ‘change of classes’ rush.

The master plan proposes to keep the circulator buses from getting stuck in traffic by allowing campus shuttles to use the proposed restricted access pedestrian mall (University Drive and Mall, and Cesar Chavez Lane). Buses could make a loop around the campus (as they do currently) or run back and forth on University only, making this a full transit mall. Boise State buses also provide satellite service to the research campus to the east, the new Boise State downtown location and to major student housing areas close to the campus. This transit service facilitates outreach and research programs, supports new satellite locations and reduces on-campus parking demand (which otherwise would generate major capital and operational costs). Buses also improve safety, ferrying large numbers of students across Capitol Boulevard or Broadway Avenue safely.

The new Transit Center addition to the Student Union Building will continue to be the central connection, information and coordination point for transit and transportation services. In addition to the Boise State shuttles, the campus is served by Valley Regional Transit (VRT) and the city has proposed a new downtown circulator. VRT and City routes should be coordinated with campus routes, but the plan allows for all transit service to be routed by the Transit Center and the Lincoln Garage, which could facilitate turnarounds if necessary.
VEHICLE CIRCULATION

The most significant impact of the master plan from a transportation perspective is the expansion of the campus south of University Drive to Boise Avenue between Capital Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. Much of the planning was focused on developing infrastructure which would support future transportation needs, including:

- Development of an internal street system to provide access and services to new buildings and parking and to facilitate circulation within the campus without over burdening existing roadways on the perimeter of the campus, such as Beacon Street and Boise Avenue
- Changes to University Drive to enhance pedestrian circulation, reduce conflicts and improve safety
- Capitol Boulevard improvements, including intersection improvements, to respond to increased demand
- Enhancement of Beacon Street and Boise Avenue, the new southern campus boundaries and the interface between the existing residential neighborhood and the campus

The conceptual street network shown in the 2015 master plan update includes two new signalized intersections on Capitol Boulevard, at Boise Avenue and at Royal Boulevard/9th Street (connecting to Cesar Chavez Lane). These additional intersections will allow the Capitol-University Drive intersection to be simplified (eliminating the fifth leg) and facilitate pedestrian safety improvements while expanding capacity for local neighborhood traffic and for the campus. Detailed analysis will be required to determine the feasibility of these proposals (spacing of signals and the existing topography is a challenge to any new intersections) as well as the detailed design and engineering for these intersections.

As the campus expands southward, Beacon Street and Boise Avenue will serve as secondary gateways into the campus. The master plan allows for improvements to these streets, including the addition of bike lanes and widening to maintain the integrity of the existing neighborhoods while providing access to the university. The number of travel lanes and locations for turn lanes on Boise Avenue should be evaluated in coordination with the corridor study for Capitol Boulevard. On the east side of the campus, the 2010 Campus Circulation Plan identified the need for an additional southbound right-turn lane onto Beacon Street from Broadway Avenue. With continued expansion more university-related traffic will be utilizing the Beacon Street/Broadway Avenue intersection for access to the campus and additional improvements may be necessary.

The master plan update illustrates capacity for significant new facilities between University Drive and Boise Avenue, which will be served by a proposed new central street and two future parking structures. Proposed changes to University Drive, redirecting vehicular traffic to allow for pedestrian-friendly streetscaping and a future campus mall, make a major east-west connection for internal campus trips even more critical. More detailed traffic studies will be needed to refine proposals for the new Center Street and the transitline along University Drive. While the master plan illustrates a conceptual street network which will support internal campus circulation, no detailed studies or analyses have been done to identify the full extent of improvements required for implementation of this plan. The Appendix includes the technical analysis memos describing transportation impacts and recommendations for more detailed traffic studies.

Special events have significant impacts on Broadway Avenue, especially during inter-collegiate basketball games. Traffic volumes peak the weekly peak hours and therefore the operations of the external roadway intersections remain under the available capacity. Boise State University has completed a traffic study for special events which should be updated at regular intervals so as the size and type of events change or as background traffic grows over time. Event management strategies should include:

- Use of police and flaggers to get traffic through intersections and into proper parking areas.
- Working with ACHD to incorporate unique traffic signal timing strategies during events.
- Use of reversible lanes and other options to increase the effective capacity of the street system.
- Developing and enhancing designated pedestrian and bicycle routes that do not interfere with intersection operations.

Roads

Legend:
The master plan update continues strategies developed in the earlier master plans which replaces large surface parking lots with new buildings and open spaces and expanding the pedestrian-oriented heart of the campus. The plan concentrates parking in structures convenient to event destinations and campus entrances. Previous master plans identified multiple parking structure sites along University Drive. But planning studies for the expansion area south of University Drive determined that the campus is best served by parking placed closer to the campus perimeter. While parking must be convenient to central destinations (like the Administration Building), the University Drive frontage is too valuable to be dedicated to major parking structures.

To transition University Drive from the primary campus automobile access, the master plan introduces a new central street with new opportunities for siting future parking structures which combine good access with a convenient central location. The new West Garage would back up the existing Brady Garage, serving the performing arts venues as well as the academic core. The new Library Mall or Center Street Garage serves the center of the campus including new academic and research facilities and new student housing communities.

The proposed Broadway Garage is proposed near the Broadway gateway serving the Albertsons Stadium and Shoal Creek Sky Center, Taco Bell Arena, and the proposed Natatorium and Olympic Sports Fieldhouse as well as the east side of the campus. The master plan continues to maintain smaller parking lots within the campus core for disability parking, university service vehicles and loading access.

The Implementation Plan anticipates that as the campus grows and internal parking lots are displaced by buildings, new surface parking lots will be developed until demand supports construction of the new parking garages.
This perspective view of the campus, when fully developed, can be compared with the aerial photo of the campus above. Most notable is the reduction in the amount of asphalt dedicated to roads and parking. In the master plan, the western edge of the campus along Capitol Boulevard presents a new arts district with music and theater venues appropriate to downtown, the State Capitol and a major state university. This view shows the transition of University Drive, starting as the primary entrance drive into the campus and then becoming the central campus mall, lined by major academic buildings.

This view shows the main campus entrance at University Drive, flanked by the Micron College of Business and Economics and a future gateway academic building which could include public outreach or research programs. This gateway is the true "front door" to the campus and should convey the gravitas and mission of Boise State University as a major academic and research institution.
### Precinct Plans

This academic precinct is the heart of the campus and includes the historic quad between the Boise River and the Administrative Building, surrounded by the oldest buildings on campus. The planning considered the appropriate character of the central quadrangle, which is more formal, and various landscaped spaces leading into the quad. To support the goal of integrating the campus and the greenbelt, the master plan recommends opening the quad to the river with the removal of Riverfront Hall. This new space should be well landscaped and designed with enhanced pedestrian connections to river bridge and the central east-west pedway as well as to capture the storm water runoff in this area.

The Albertsons Library is expanded to the north side and new terraces are proposed, overlooking the river. Improvements to the library should accommodate additional academic resources including learning commons, computing lab, writing center and tutoring, as well as more informal student areas for study and engagement. The single story Campus School building is replaced by a larger academic shared resources facility to complement the existing Interactive Learning Center (ILC). On the south side, the plan proposes development of Library Mall, an improved pedestrian route connecting the main quad to the southern expansion area.

Along Capitol Boulevard, the new Arts District includes the Fine Arts Building and the Music-Theater Performing Arts Center (after the demolition of Towers dormitory). Complementary to the existing Morrison Center for the Performing Arts, this 800 seat multi-purpose venue will be the new academic home for Boise State’s music and theater programs. Space freed up in the Morrison Center will facilitate entrance and drop-off improvements and expansion of the Box Office and administrative and support areas. The circulation in this area is planned to allow for patron drop-off off as well as loading/unloading at each venue while directing most traffic to the Brady Garage and University Drive. Ada County Highway Department plans to add new intersections at Capitol Boulevard and Royal/9th Street in 2016 which will improve access for several new off-campus housing developments (west of Capitol Boulevard) and facilitate safer pedestrian and bicycle crossing.

Substantial landscape and open space improvements include the Fine Arts sculpture garden and a new campus green space to connect the central pedway to the Capitol Boulevard gateway. Most of the surface parking in this area is replaced with new parking garage south of University Drive and existing greenhouses are relocated to a building or garage rooftop. To facilitate these changes, especially the removal of the Riverfront Hall and Campus School, a new classroom resources and academic building is proposed lining the north side of the Brady garage and facing the new Arts Green.

### Site, Landscape, Infrastructure

- New Pedestrian + Bike Bridge
- Improved connection to the Greenbelt
- Library Riverview Terrace
- Library Mall Pedestrian Path
- Central Plant Expansion
- ‘B’ Plaza + Visitor Parking
- Esplanade Quad + Greenbelt
- Graveyard Pedestrian Improvements + Cesar Chavez Lane
- Arts Green
- Rape Boyfriend Interaction + Pedestrian Improvements
This precinct was the focus of campus expansion in the 2005 and 2008 master plans. But the growth of the campus raised concerns about the distance and sense of separation between this STEM focused district and the traditional academic core of the campus. This master plan bridges that gap with new academic buildings along the central pedway-bikeway as it passes the Student Union Building. Additional future STEM facilities are clustered on University Drive around the existing Engineering buildings to anchor the precinct. Boise State's Health Sciences programs are proposed to be consolidated around a new academic quad on the south side of the Norco Building. Existing Health Sciences facilities located across Capitol Boulevard should be reprogrammed for research functions or could be redeveloped for non-academic uses. The placement of the new Kinesiology building on this quad (adjacent to the Recreation Center expansion) supports health and wellness program synergies and shared use of both the recreation center facilities and adjacent sports training facilities.

The completion of the new multi-sport recreation field on Lincoln Avenue and the athletics practice field make it possible to imagine reconfiguring the oversized open space between the Student Union Building and the Taco Bell Arena. The new plan provides the Student Union with a complementary and more functional open space (both hardscape + landscape) and improved separated pedestrian and bike paths (pulling the bikes away from the building to reduce conflicts with pedestrians). The plan addresses the uncomfortable overlap of academic, athletics and entertainment uses around the Taco Bell Arena to eliminate a major 'wall' which currently exists between the athletic precinct and the rest of the campus. Replacement of the Kinesiology Annex/Pool and Bronco Gym allows the center of this precinct to be opened up with a new events plaza, expanded ADA and VIP parking, and much needed entrance enhancements for the Taco Bell Arena. The new Olympic Sports Center and a new Natatorium expand the athletic precinct to the south, with entrance plazas fronting on Belmont Street and a major parking garage providing up to 2000 new parking spaces. Locating athletic venues and associated parking closer to the campus perimeter facilitates public access and event traffic management while reducing internal campus circulation and improving pedestrian safety.

Major streetscape-landscape improvements in this precinct includes the transformation of University Drive to a pedestrian-oriented multi-modal mall between Lincoln and Euclid Avenues. A new round-about diverts general traffic to Belmont or Beacon Street, while allowing access for university shuttles, service and emergency vehicles and event or game day traffic. The plan illustrates the transformation (and possible vacating) of smaller streets (Michigan, Vermont, Manitou) through this precinct, while retaining the right-of-way for bike/pedestrian paths, utilities and service access. The central pedestrian and bike paths are extended south to Beacon Street where ACHD plans to add a new pedestrian crossing signal at the Manitou intersection. The Belmond Street mall is also extended eastward for improved connectivity and to enhance the pedestrian character of the precinct.
WEST CAMPUS PRECINCT (NEW EXPANSION AREA) - MASTER PLAN, 2015

ACADEMIC FACILITIES
1. Academic Building
2. Academic-Research Building
3. Administrative Service Building
4. Academic-Research Building
5. Chinese Greenhouse

STUDENT LIFE FACILITIES
6. Live Learn Communities
7. Residential Hones College
8. Student Housing (Fraternity community)
9. Dining Pavilion
10. Student Recreation Fields Expansion
11. Faculty, staff, or graduate Student Associations
12. Student Life Clubs, Organizations, and Campus Ministe
13. Student Housing Village
14. Recreation Field and Pavilion

SITE, LANDSCAPE, INFRASTRUCTURE
15. Chrisway Greenway
16. University Mall
17. New Quadrangle
18. Library Mall Pedestrian Path
19. Center Parking Garage + precinct Central Plant
20. West Parking Garage
21. Center Street

WEST CAMPUS PRECINCT (NEW EXPANSION AREA)

The most critical task for the 2015 plan update was to develop a plan for the central expansion area, south of University Drive, to guide future development. With this expansion, University Drive becomes the geographic center of the campus and the plan envisions its future transformation. The gateway into the campus at Capital Boulevard and University Drive is strengthened with gateway academic buildings on both corners. University Drive extends to the historic core of the campus where vehicular traffic is diverted southward to a new central street which ties into the University-Lincoln Avenue intersection. The new University Mall is lined with academic, research, and administrative facilities, expanding the academic core of the campus dramatically.

On the southern edge of the campus, student housing communities and new recreational facilities provide an appropriate sense of scale for the existing neighborhood. All aspects of student life are considered and integrated, from student clubs and organizations to unique communities, including Greek Life and several campus ministries. The plan builds on recent investment, expanding the Lincoln recreation fields; proposing a new retail food concession and/or full dining satellite; and surrounding this popular facility with new student housing communities. An additional recreational field and pavilion is planned along Boise Avenue as an amenity for future housing and an open space buffer between the campus and the neighborhood.

In addition to the central University Mall, two new pedestrian corridors through the campus are proposed. On the west side of the precinct, Chrisway Drive is eliminated and a new greenway which connects to the Greenbelt and the Boise River is proposed. The greenway is planned around an existing drainage route which sometimes floods, so daylighting the storm sewer will facilitate storm water management best practices, reduce local flooding, and filter surface runoff using rain gardens and ponds (which could also capture and hold storm water for reuse in landscape irrigation). Winding paths along this new greenway will offer students and community members an alternate route to connect with the Greenbelt trail system.

Unlike the west campus expansion area, this precinct lacks an orthogonal street grid and is under served by utilities, so the plan starts from scratch to develop infrastructure supporting future campus development. The proposed central street will be a secondary utilities distribution route, connecting to existing infrastructure on University Drive. A precinct central plant is proposed in the Center Street Garage which offers a direct route down Joyce Street for ice-rinks to the existing central plant. Two new parking garages are located off this central street, to serve the campus expansion.
This perspective view of the campus when fully developed, can be compared with the aerial photo of the campus above. This view shows the main campus entrances on Broadway Avenue, at University Drive and Beacon Street, flanked by the new Bronco Plaza in front of the stadium.

Most notable are improvements to the Broadway-University gateway to create a space for celebrating which also welcomes campus visitors every day. The new Alumni and Friends Center has a stronger presence on University Drive, expressing alumni engagement in University life. New athletic facilities extend the athletics district south to Beacon with the Olympic Sports Fieldhouse, Natatorium, and Sports Training/Kinesiology facility supported by a major new parking garage. The scale of the campus is dramatically transformed by the full development of the district with major STEM academic and research facilities and the Health Sciences quadrangle.
An Implementation Plan is critical to successfully realizing the vision of the campus master plan. Implementation issues, including identifying future building sites and the phasing and staging of infrastructure needed to support future development, were critical to developing the 2015 master plan.

Although the overall campus density is not high, the campus core is largely built-out, putting pressure on existing academic facilities and causing many departments and programs to be scattered. Some of the existing academic buildings are inadequate for their current uses or are in poor condition and should be considered for major renovation or replacement. To upgrade or replace these structures, space must be available in new buildings so departments can be relocated to allow the construction work to proceed. Without available ‘swing space’ even minimal renovation projects can be difficult to accomplish.

Implementation of facilities projects also requires an in-depth understanding of campus infrastructure, reflecting the interconnected nature of all development on campus. This level of understanding and integration facilitates the needed investment in enabling infrastructure to be identified and effectively planned and the benefits and efficiencies can be more fully realized.
The update of the master plan began with several campus improvement projects in various stages of planning, design, and construction and these projects are shown as part of the Phase 1 Implementation Plan. These included: upgrades to University Drive (adding bike lanes and transit pullouts); site and plaza improvements on the south side of the Administration Building; programming for the next Science Building in the STEM district; design of the new Fine Arts Building; studies for collocating Kinesiology and Athletics facilities; and construction of a new athletic practice field and the new Alumni and Friends Center building on University Drive near the Broadway gateway.

Critical first moves for implementation planning included identifying the preferred site for the next science (STEM) building (#16 on the Phase 1 map at left); and suggesting a site for a new academic building with classrooms, learning labs, lecture halls, and study space which would be a shared resource. The site preferred (#19 on the map at left), along the pedway between the library and the Student Union, is centrally located to provide more flexibility in scheduling classes and better connect the academic precincts. Two other sites identified for shared academic resources include the proposed new ‘liner building’ (#4) along the north face of the Brady garage and the Campus School building site (#5) which could function as an expansion of the adjacent Interactive Learning Center.
The second phase looks at meeting Boise State’s strategic plan goals and projected enrollment with expansion to the south and the transformation of University Drive into the traditional campus mall lined by major new academic and research facilities. To facilitate this transformation the new central street must be completed, diverting auto traffic around the mall to reconnect with Lincoln Avenue, and two new mixed-use parking garages serving the expansion area are planned. This phase also includes new student housing villages offering opportunities for Greek houses, residential ministries, additional ‘live-learn’ communities and graduate student housing. The athletics precinct expands substantially with several new sports venues, a major pedestrian plaza with entrance improvements to the Taco Bell Arena and the stadium entrances. New academic and research facilities are added in the STEM and Health Sciences district. As the campus expands out to Beacon Street, this well landscaped edge sets the standard for the campus perimeter development. On Capitol Boulevard the main entrance to the campus framed by a new Academic and Research gateway building and the proposed Music and Theater Performing Arts Center expressed campus identity at the riverfront.
The final phase looks well beyond 20 years, to envision the potential capacity of the campus expansion. However, this plan is not intended to be a ‘final build-out plan’ for the Boise State University campus. Over the first 5-10 years of implementing this plan, the campus will continue to grow and the larger context will change in ways we can’t predict. The 2015 master plan update was very pragmatic about retaining and using existing buildings, but in 20 years some of these facilities may be candidates for re-evaluation for substantial renovation or replacement. Each update of the master plan should evaluate the condition of existing facilities and infrastructure, and determine the cost/benefit of continued investment in substantial renovations; options for re-purposing of older structures; and where necessary, make recommendations for building replacement.
Campus development and implementation of facilities projects requires an in-depth understanding of campus infrastructure and the interconnected nature of campus systems. Each building project must be supported by the appropriate utilities (electricity, water and sewer), building systems (heating, chilled water) and services (IT, data, security, emergency and trash/recycling collection). The master plan has to consider distribution routes and systems, such as utility tunnels, chases or direct-bury; access routes for fire lanes and emergency and service vehicles; management of storm water runoff and drainage; and irrigation systems for landscaping. This level of understanding and integration allows the university to identify where investment in infrastructure will be required to make future facilities projects feasible. Working with the local utilities and the City of Boise will ensure that capacity continues to be available to serve current and future needs.

Recommendations for infrastructure implementation include:

- Develop a comprehensive utility infrastructure plan, based on the campus master plan, to facilitate efficient growth and development of new buildings and facilities.
- This infrastructure plan should also identify any conflicts or inadequacies of existing systems, and recommend phased improvements or replacement.
- Conduct a thorough plant material inventory and analysis to plan for future plant material replacement and generate effective and sustainable maintenance strategies.
- The campus should serve as a ‘living laboratory’ where students and faculty can research, test and demonstrate best management practices in sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- Pilot programs for integrated water conservation and recycling, collecting and storing storm water runoff and grey water for use in the campus irrigation system; plan for the phased expansion of this system across the campus.
- Diversify campus energy sources by establishing an alternative energy systems and materials project area for production, testing and demonstration of best practices; and coordinate these efforts with the Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability office and the Boise State Sustainability Club.
- Evaluate options for adopting site and facilities performance rating systems and standards for sustainability and resilience to guide future campus development.
Planning for long term campus development raised questions about the larger context of the campus and the opportunities for complementary development. The alternatives evaluated for the expansion study area explored various approaches to development by both private and public stakeholders in and around the campus. These strategies included: working with the City of Boise to encourage appropriate private sector development (local retail, restaurants, entertainment uses) in the existing commercial areas along Capitol Boulevard and Broadway Avenue; working with City Planning to create a ‘University District’ to include existing development areas surrounding the campus; and identifying opportunities for strategic partnerships to develop facilities which are vital to the campus (live-learn communities, freshman housing, research incubators, etc.) but which might not be supported by traditional sources of funding. The Phase 1 Implementation Plan anticipates a public-private partnership agreement to develop the first ‘Live+Learn’ community for the Honors College on the site of a former church at University Drive and Lincoln Avenue.

BROADWAY AVENUE GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT

The planners also considered development options for the Broadway Avenue gateway, including the new Alumni and Friends Center on University Drive (under construction in 2015). Options studied considered the center’s orientation to University Drive, visibility from Broadway and how the new building, plaza and courtyard could contribute to the gateway precinct. The master plan incorporates the final building orientation and design. While the current project dedicates the south half of the site to surface parking, the master plan anticipates a future parking garage structure will be needed to support the needs of this precinct.

The master plan illustrates gateway development including a new plaza on the northwest corner of University Drive and Broadway Avenue to reinforce campus identity and provide a focal point for game day celebrations and campus events. The proposed Bronco Plaza should be elevated for greater visibility and to accommodate parking below. Studies of this precinct also looked at several options for developing a hotel project, including retail and retail space on Broadway close to the stadium (see sketches at left). A new hotel would need to incorporate some structured parking to reduce the impact on existing event parking, provide drop-off and service access issues, and be designed to complement plans for the new Bronco Plaza and Broadway gateway improvements.

During the planning, stakeholder interviews with the Taco Bell Arena director and staff identified a need for a larger capacity (15,000 seat) event center with state-of-the-art loading/set-up facilities and associated hotel and parking structures (see sketch plan and modeling on the opposite page). A new event center would allow the existing Taco Bell Arena to be renovated (new entrance, lobby and ADA facilities) and reconfigured for basketball and volleyball competition, eliminating the need for a separate Olympic Sports venue. This move would also improve parking and circulation in the stadium area by eliminating the semi-trailer loading/unloading stacking area at the dock on the east side of the Taco Bell Arena.

CAMPUS PLAN WITH PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY ZONES

1. Alumni and Friends Center
2. Bronco Plaza
3. Parking Structure
4. Hotel
5. Arena
6. Retail
BASEBALL STADIUM

Another option for this area is a baseball stadium. The stadium development could include a hotel, resort elements, retail and housing within a mixed-use public-private partnership project.

Two different options for a stadium development plan are illustrated below. The baseball stadium is considerably larger than a 15,000 seat arena, so this proposal would have a major impact on this precinct, displacing a planned Olympic Sports venue and reducing the site area available for structured parking. With careful planning, the baseball stadium could be a popular and beneficial addition to this precinct.

MINISTRIES STUDIES + EXPANSION PRECINCT, MASTER PLAN, 2015

BASEBALL STADIUM

CAMPUS MINISTRIES

The studies done for University Drive and the campus expansion area to the south had to consider the future of existing non-university uses on the south side of University Drive, including churches and ministries which are important to the Boise State student community (see map at left). Planning studies for this area confirmed that the University Drive frontage should be dedicated to “core mission functions” including university administration, student services, and academic space, including “live+learn” residential academic communities. Accordingly, these ministries, which were once on the edge on campus, but will end up in the very center of the campus under the expansion plan, will need to relocate as the campus develops south of University Drive. However, existing religious facilities located at the southern edge of the expansion area (on or close to Boise Avenue) could probably remain in place for some time with little impact on the planned development and growth of the campus.

The master plan illustrates several options for development which could include campus ministries, fraternities and sororities, and other student organizations important to the Boise State community. These options include: student ‘villages’ which could be developed as a partnership project with a ministry (St Paul’s has expressed an interest in adding student housing to their program) or with sorority or fraternity chapters, and leasing space from the university or a private sector development partner. The precinct plan (at left) includes a new central parking structure with a ‘wrapper’ of space along the north side facing the center of campus which would be ideal for student clubs and organizations (including campus ministries), retail and food outlets and other student-oriented uses complementary to the adjacent student housing communities and recreational facilities.
(ac)kno\v{l}edgements

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Dr. Lisa Harris, Vice President for Student Affairs
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LCA Architects
Kllmax Transportion Planning
The Land Group, Landscape Architect + Civil Engineering
FACULTY + STAFF FORUM
Campus Master Plan Update

Join the Boise State Campus Master Plan team for an informational session about the campus master plan update. The consultants will present a brief overview of past campus master plans and the process of updating the master plan, which is just beginning. This will be followed by a ‘listening session’ in which all attendees are encouraged to ask questions and provide comments.

A second community meeting is planned for late November; date and time to be announced.

WHO: All community members are invited

WHEN: Thursday October 17, 6:00-8:00 pm

WHERE: Student Union Building Jordan Ballroom A

Mental Health Workshop
October 17, 6:00-8:00 pm

Stakeholder Focus Meetings
September 11, 2013

Workshop #2 Concepts & Alternatives
October 7-8, 2013

• Steering Committee & Executive Committee
• Breakout Work Sessions
  • Housing
  • Academic (STEM District)
  • Traffic/Circulation
  • Facilities + Planning
• Faculty Forum
• Executive Committee Debrief

Community Listening Workshop
October 17, 2013

Workshop #3 Draft Plan + Precinct Studies
November 7-8, 2013

Workshop #4 Draft Final Plan + Phasing
March 17, 2014

• Executive Committee
• Steering Committee
• Breakout Work Session with City staff
• Executive Committee Debrief

Campus Plan Forums
April 10, 2014

• Faculty + Staff
• Students

Boise City Council Workshop
March 10, 2015

Idaho State Board of Education
April 16, 2015 and August 13, 2015
REFERENCES + RESOURCES

The master plan update incorporates information from many past plans and studies, as well as data collected during the planning process. Below is a list of materials referenced in this document which are available on the Boise State University website or request from Campus Planning and Facilities.

Technical Memorandum on Transportation Plan Elements, Boise State University Master Plan Update, 2014
Boise State University Six Year Capital Improvement Plan, FY 2015 through FY 2020
Boise State University Official Building List Gross and Assignable Square Feet, 2013
Boise State University Kinesiology & Athletics Report, 2013
Lusk Street Area Master Plan, City of Boise, 2013
Boise State University Campus Circulation Plan, 2012
Boise State University Quad Concepts, 2012
Blueprint Boise, City of Boise Comprehensive Plan, 2011
Boise State University Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Master Plan, 2010
Parking Master Plan Update, Boise State University, 2010
Boise State University Framework Master Plan, 2006 Update
Boise State University Campus Master Plan, 2005
Boise State University Design Guidelines, 2005

The master plan document and materials and presentations from the planning workshop and campus forums are available online at: http://operations.boisestate.edu/campus-masterplan-2014/