



Taking a Thematic View

As we've been working diligently to draft the plan document, we'd like to share with you some of the themes that emerged during this public planning process. These themes are an important part of Columbia Compass, and they help us remember how each of the plan's elements are interwoven with one another to complete our overall vision for Columbia.

Broad Themes

Throughout the planning process several broad themes emerged which spoke to not only desires for Columbia and Columbians, but also the underlying needs of the community. These themes of **Equity & Accessibility**, **Safety**, **Public Health**, and **Resiliency** relate back to the community's overall vision for Columbia.

Equity and accessibility is both a broad theme and a topical theme for Columbia Compass. In focusing on equity, we look to provide Columbians with what they need to succeed – some may require more assistance than others, but all should be provided with opportunity. A component of addressing equity is examining how accessible the City's spaces and services are, with our diverse population in mind.

Safety emerged as a broad theme early in the planning process, receiving the greatest number of references in the Fall 2018 survey. As a broad theme, safety includes one's perception of personal safety, the ability to safely move throughout one's community (using all modes of travel), safety in relationship to natural and manmade hazards, and public safety/emergency management. Safety is also a topical theme.

Check out our new video!

In celebration of Planning Month, we've released a [video](#) that discusses both the broad and topical themes in depth. Stay tuned to social media and [the City's YouTube channel](#) - we'll be releasing more videos in the coming months to highlight some of the plan's recommendations!

While the City of Columbia is not a healthcare provider, much of what the City does has the potential to leave a lasting impact on **public health**. The City is involved in conserving our natural resources, providing safe and attractive infrastructure and spaces for recreation, and engaging with members of the community to facilitate healthy choices and opportunities.

Planning for **resiliency** is about anticipating and adapting to change. Resilience thinking examines how we adapt to and mitigate risks resulting from changes, whether those changes are due to population growth, development pressures, or our changing climate. The recommendations made within Columbia Compass all seek to identify ways that the City and its partners can better provide for the community with adaptation and mitigation of risks in mind.

Topical Themes

In addition to the four broad themes discussed above, ten topical themes were identified which allow the reader to review the plan not only by element, but also by theme. Topical themes include: Data, Partner, Lead By Example, Plan & Implement, Equity & Accessibility, Engagement & Outreach, Safety, Built Environment, Conserve & Preserve, and Innovation & Technology.