

ATTACHMENT H: CONFORMANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Act | Powerline Trails Act |
| BMP | best management practice |
| Natural Area | the Pronghorn Natural Area |
| Pathway | Colorado's Power Pathway |
| POS | Parks and Open Space |
| ROW | right-of-way |
| Xcel Energy | Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation doing business as Xcel Energy |

A STRONG ECONOMY

PRINCIPLE: A STRONG ECONOMY WITH ACTIVE URBAN PLACES IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE WELLBEING OF RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND THE COMMUNITY.

Goal 1. Support a growing availability of job opportunities for people with a variety of skill levels and experience.

Colorado's Power Pathway (Pathway) is a \$1.7 billion investment proposed by Xcel Energy to improve the state's electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway will ensure a safe, reliable, and economical electric service to the public, boost the regional economy and create jobs during its construction.

Construction will require contract labor and provide local jurisdictions and host communities with additional tax revenues and potential employment opportunities. Once in operation, Pathway may facilitate ongoing job opportunities and tax revenue in energy that ultimately interconnect to Pathway.

Additionally, generation developers will have the opportunity to build projects that otherwise were infeasible due to lack of transmission access to market and/or transmission constraints. These generation projects may provide other additional economic development through increased jobs associated with construction and local tax-based revenue associated with land usage and payments to existing landowners.

Goal 2: Achieve greater balance between the number of residents and jobs in Aurora.

As discussed under Goal 1 above, Pathway is expected to create jobs during construction and facilitate ongoing job opportunities in clean energy development projects that ultimately interconnect to Pathway.

Goal 3: Continue to support the growth of primary employment to bolster the local economy.

Pathway will boost the regional economy and create jobs during its construction, among other benefits discussed under Goal 1 above. Project construction will require contract labor and provide local jurisdictions and host communities with additional tax revenues and potential employment opportunities that will support the local economy.

Goal 4: Create new and unique retail areas that match changing trends.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to create new and unique retail areas that match changing trends. Pathway is not a retail development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 5: Create partnerships with major institutions and businesses to encourage economic growth.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to create partnerships with major institutions and businesses to encourage economic growth. While Pathway does not directly create partnerships, Pathway will ensure safe, reliable, and economical electric service that will support potential economic development in Aurora.

Goal 6: Support locally grown businesses along with business startups and expansions.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to support locally grown businesses along with business startups and expansions. Pathway is not a business startup; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 7: Continue to provide high-quality and reliable city and utility services throughout the city.

Pathway is a \$1.7 billion investment proposed by Xcel Energy to improve the state's electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway will ensure a safe, reliable and economical electric service to the public, boost the regional economy, and create jobs during its construction.

A DIVERSE AND EQUITABLE CITY

PRINCIPLE: DIVERSITY AND EQUITY ARE ASSETS TO BE NURTURED AND PROMOTED BY THE CITY.

Goal 1: City services should be available and accessible to all residents.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal that Aurora services should be available and accessible to all residents. Pathway is not a library, recreation center, or other similar public service; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway. As described in Goal 7 of the *A Strong Economy* section, Pathway will ensure a safe, reliable, and economical electric service for the public.

Goal 2: Create safe and welcoming public spaces throughout the city that are designed to increase communication and understanding and reduce conflict among cultures.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to create safe and welcoming public spaces throughout Aurora that are designed to increase communication and understanding and reduce conflict among cultures. As Pathway is not a public space, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 3: Embrace and promote multiculturalism in education, communication, celebration, and commerce.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to embrace and promote multiculturalism in education, communication, celebration, and commerce. Pathway is a utility project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 4: Further strengthen Aurora's reputation as an international city that recognizes the value and contributions of immigrants and refugees and supports opportunities for these communities to thrive.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to further strengthen Aurora's reputation as an international city that recognizes the value and contributions of immigrants and refugees and supports opportunities for these communities to thrive. Pathway is a utility project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

HOUSING FOR ALL

PRINCIPLE: HIGH QUALITY HOUSING OPTIONS ENABLE PEOPLE ACROSS ALL SOCIOECONOMIC LEVELS, CULTURAL PRACTICES AND STAGES OF LIFE TO ESTABLISH AND MANAGE HOUSEHOLDS.

Goal 1: Increase high-quality housing options of all types and at all price levels throughout the city through ongoing collaboration with the development community.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to increase high-quality housing options of all types and at all price levels throughout Aurora through ongoing collaboration with the development community. Pathway does not propose residential development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 2: Work with partners to better understand specific needs for affordable housing and to develop new, creative housing options.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to work with partners to better understand specific needs for affordable housing and to develop new, creative housing options. Pathway does not propose residential development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 3: Locate affordable and senior housing throughout the city and at locations with a variety of transportation options.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to locate affordable and senior housing throughout Aurora and at locations with a variety of transportation options. Pathway does not propose residential development and is not a transportation project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 4: Address barriers to the development of diverse housing variety and neighborhood choices across the city.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to address barriers to the development of diverse housing variety and neighborhood choices across Aurora. Pathway does not propose residential development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 5: Decrease barriers to homeownership.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to decrease barriers to homeownership. Pathway does not propose residential development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

PRINCIPLE: EATING HEALTHY FOOD, WALKING AND EXERCISING, LIVING IN A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND HAVING ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE IMPROVES THE LIVES OF ALL AURORANS.

Goal 1: Make active transportation, such as walking and biking, a viable alternative to driving.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to make active transportation, such as walking and biking, a viable alternative to driving. Pathway will be co-located with an existing transmission line corridor along East Quincy Avenue to reduce impacts. Aside from the transmission pole foundation footprint, areas under and around Pathway can continue in their current land use.

The transmission line will be located parallel to the East Quincy Avenue right-of-way (ROW). Pathway will mitigate impacts to roads due to construction and related transportation routing using best management practices (BMPs) and traffic control during construction, and through post-construction restoration efforts.

Pathway will not prohibit active transportation modes in this area.

Goal 2: Maintain, improve and expand parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities throughout Aurora.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to maintain, improve and expand parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities throughout Aurora. Pathway is located within the municipal boundaries of Aurora for approximately 1 mile in the Parks and Open Space (POS) zone district. The proposed use is classified as a Minor Utility by the Unified Development Ordinance, which includes above-ground electric transmission lines of public utilities (146-6.2.U). A Minor Utility may be permitted in the POS zone district through the conditional use process (Permitted Use Table, Table 3.2-1 in Section 146-3.2 of the Unified Development Ordinance).

Pathway is a low intensity use and is compatible with the surrounding land uses. The transmission line represents a passive use and will not be staffed. Transmission line operations will not require on-site staff and will be monitored remotely. Visits from personnel will be limited to emergencies or maintenance and inspection activities.

Pathway will be co-located with an existing transmission line corridor along East Quincy Avenue to reduce impacts. Pathway is not expected to change the land use of the Pronghorn Natural Area (Natural Area) because it is being located adjacent to an existing transmission line and a road. Aside from the transmission pole foundation footprint, areas under and around Pathway can continue in their current land use.

The transmission line will be located parallel to the East Quincy Avenue ROW. Pathway will mitigate impacts to roads due to construction and related transportation routing using BMPs and traffic control during construction, and through post-construction restoration efforts.

Temporary impacts to land uses are expected to be minor. Disturbed areas surrounding new transmission poles will be revegetated following construction. Construction and operation of the transmission line will not interfere with continued use of the surrounding areas. Disturbed areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions in a reasonable manner or reseeded according to landowner requests and Aurora requirements. Pathway is not a residential development and Pathway does not propose development of parks, open space, trails, or recreation facilities.

Xcel Energy has reviewed the Aurora Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Aurora 2012) for information regarding future regional trail corridors through the Natural Area and identified a proposed trail within the Natural Area. (See map on page 41 of the Aurora Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.) The proposed trail appears to be aligned in a north to southeast direction, which assumes a perpendicular crossing. Pathway will not prohibit the construction and use of the future trail.

The Seam Interceptor Master Plan, previously referred to as the Senac Creek Interceptor Project (Aurora 2023a) includes layout of existing and future planned facilities associated with the water treatment facilities. Pathway will be located at the property boundary with the East Quincy Avenue ROW. A future trail is planned in this area. The proposed trail appears to be aligned in a west to east direction, which assumes parallel orientation with Pathway. Pathway will not prohibit the construction and use of the future trail. It is unknown if construction schedules will overlap between trail construction and Pathway construction. Xcel Energy will coordinate with the landowner to reduce conflict or other interruption of construction progress.

The Powerline Trails Act (Act) was passed in 2022 to help raise awareness and create opportunities for Public Entities to collocate public recreation trails within Transmission Corridors. Xcel Energy has notified the City of Aurora of the potential for construction of a Powerline Trail within the Pathway Transmission Corridor. Xcel Energy's role under the Act is limited to facilitating the potential collocation of such trails by providing guidance to Public Entities on things such as what safety clearances need to be maintained, which materials should be used in the construction of the trail, and where such trails can safely be collocated with Xcel Energy's facilities. Powerline Trails will ultimately be constructed by Public Entities after consult with Xcel Energy, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, and landowners about the safety and feasibility of such trails after the Transmission Corridor is constructed. Xcel Energy has a long history of working with local governments who wish to collocate public recreation trails within its transmission corridors and will work with the City of Aurora to address any thoughts, questions, or interest is has regarding potential future Powerline Trails.

Goal 3: Neighborhoods should have safe and convenient access to retail outlets that offer healthy and/or fresh food choices.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal that neighborhoods should have safe and convenient access to retail outlets that offer healthy and/or fresh food choices. Pathway is not a residential or commercial development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 4: Support the expansion of healthcare facilities to locations that conveniently serve neighborhoods throughout the city.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to support the expansion of healthcare facilities to locations that conveniently serve neighborhoods throughout Aurora. Pathway is not a healthcare facility; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 5: Ensure that Aurora is a safe environment for all community members.

Xcel Energy's facilities are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to meet or exceed all applicable requirements of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers standards and accepted industry standards and practices. All applicable fire laws and regulations, as outlined in Colorado Revised Statutes 31-15-601, will be observed during construction and normal operation of the transmission line.

Transmission lines are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions and protective devices at line terminals stop the electricity flow under abnormal operating circumstances. The transmission poles will be equipped with shield wires above the energized line; this equipment adds to the pole height but also provides protection against lightning strikes.

Xcel Energy's transmission lines are monitored 24/7/365 for line contact, the term describing when an object comes in contact with the transmission line conductors. If there is an unanticipated event in the line, the line is isolated from the system to protect the public and the line from operating under unsafe conditions. Xcel Energy's transmission lines are inspected annually to check for line connections and damage. For the safety of the general public, unauthorized personnel are not permitted to come in contact with the transmission line conductor wire.

Fires along transmission lines are very rare. Xcel Energy's powerlines are monitored and controlled remotely from an operations center where event response is coordinated. In the rare event of an emergency, Xcel Energy will likely be aware of an issue before the general public or emergency responders. Nevertheless, the public is encouraged to contact Xcel Energy's emergency number: 800-895-1999 to report an emergency. Unauthorized personnel, including emergency responders, should not approach the facilities and should not touch the electric lines or anyone or anything in contact with them.

Xcel Energy also coordinates closely with local fire departments and first responders and consults with them to discuss any concerns within their response area. Xcel Energy offers free

online safety training to fire departments and first responders that is based on national standards through the Responding to Utility Emergencies Program.

Goal 6: Provide safe, effective and high-quality water, wastewater and stormwater services.

Construction activities will be performed using methods that prevent entrance or accidental spillage of solid matter, contaminants, debris, and other pollutants and wastes into flowing streams or dry watercourses, lakes, and underground water sources. Activities will follow BMPs for the management of wastes to avoid and minimize effects from potential spills or other releases to the environment.

Pathway will not create any wastewater nor have any facilities requiring wastewater treatment. Portable temporary bathrooms that will be serviced on a regular basis will be on site during the construction period.

Pathway is not anticipated to generate pollution during operations and maintenance and will not require permanent pollution control equipment. A Stormwater Management Plan will be created, and stormwater management features incorporated into the design as necessary.

A THRIVING ENVIRONMENT

PRINCIPLE: A THRIVING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – INCLUDING STEWARDSHIP OF WATER, ENERGY AND NATURAL AREA RESOURCES – IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING OF RESIDENTS AND THE CITY'S ABILITY TO SUPPORT FUTURE GROWTH.

Goal 1: Implement water supply and storage projects, as well as conserve and protect existing water resources.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to implement water supply and storage projects, as well as to conserve and protect existing water resources. Pathway is not a water supply or storage project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 2: Conserve and efficiently use energy resources.

Pathway is a \$1.7 billion investment proposed by Xcel Energy to improve the state's electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway will ensure a safe, reliable, and economical electric service to the public, boost the regional economy, and create jobs during its construction.

Once in operation, Pathway may facilitate ongoing job opportunities and tax revenue in the clean energy projects (wind, solar, etc.) that ultimately interconnect to Pathway. Additionally, generation developers will have the opportunity to build projects that otherwise were infeasible due to lack of transmission access to market and/or transmission constraints. These generation projects may provide other additional economic development through increased jobs associated with construction and local tax-based revenue associated with land usage, and payments to existing landowners.

Goal 3: Protect valuable open space and natural areas.

Pathway will cross the Pronghorn Natural Area in Aurora for approximately 1 mile, which is an 848-acre Natural Area managed by Aurora located on both the north and south sides of East Quincy Avenue. Uses of the Natural Area include hiking and wildlife viewing (Aurora 2023b). The parking area for the Natural Area is located on the northern side of Quincy Avenue.

The Pathway crossing of Natural Area will take place parallel to East Quincy Avenue and will be collocated with the road to reduce impact to the Natural Area. Pathway is not expected to change the land use of the Natural Area because it is being located adjacent to an existing road. Aside from the transmission pole foundation footprint, areas under and around Pathway can continue in their current land use.

The transmission line will be located parallel to the East Quincy Avenue ROW. Pathway will mitigate impacts to roads due to construction and related transportation routing using BMPs and traffic control during construction, and through post-construction restoration efforts.

Disturbed areas will be revegetated following construction. Disturbed areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions or reseeded according to landowner requests and Aurora requirements.

Goal 4: Require that new development or redevelopment provides and maintains attractive, healthy and water-efficient landscaping.

Construction and operation of the transmission line will not interfere with continued use of the surrounding areas. Disturbed areas will be revegetated following construction. Disturbed areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions or reseeded according to landowner requests and Aurora requirements.

Goal 5: Implement water-wise land use practices in all new development.

Pathway creates no additional demand for water (other than trucked-in water for construction) or wastewater treatment. Water to be used during construction will be obtained from a local, permitted source. Portable temporary bathrooms that will be serviced on a regular basis will be on site during the construction period.

EASY MOBILITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

PRINCIPLE: AN EASY-TO-USE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK WITH MULTIPLE CHOICES FOR TRAVEL SUPPORTS A STRONG ECONOMY, HEALTHY COMMUNITY AND FLOURISHING ENVIRONMENT.

Goal 1: Establish and maintain an integrated, multimodal transportation system.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to establish and maintain an integrated, multimodal transportation system. Pathway is not a transportation project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 2: Concentrate development in urban districts to connect them to neighborhoods and other nearby placetypes by public transit, bicycling and walking.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to concentrate development in urban districts to connect them to neighborhoods and other nearby placetypes by public transit, bicycling and walking. Pathway is not a residential or urban development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 3: Provide new street connections and alleviate the most critical points of congestion in developed areas.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to provide new street connections and alleviate the most critical points of congestion in developed areas. The transmission line will be located parallel to the East Quincy Avenue ROW. Pathway is not a residential development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 4: Provide completely connected street networks in developing areas to avoid excessive traffic congestion and maximize mobility choices.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to provide completely connected street networks in developing areas to avoid excessive traffic congestion and maximize mobility choices. The transmission line will be located parallel to the East Quincy Avenue ROW. Pathway is not a residential development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 5: Develop and extend the local transit network, connecting concentrations of activity.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to develop and extend the local transit network, connecting concentrations of activity. Pathway is not a transit or transportation project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 6: Provide comfortable and safe walking and biking routes connected to key locations.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to provide comfortable and safe walking and biking routes connected to key locations. Pathway does not propose any walking or biking routes and will not affect any existing or future trails. Pathway will be collocated with an existing transmission line corridor along East Quincy Avenue to reduce impacts. Aside from the transmission pole foundation footprint, areas under and around Pathway can continue in their current land use. See also the response to Goal 1 in the *A Healthy Community Goal* section.

Goal 7: Provide sidewalks and walking routes that meet the needs of senior and mobility challenged individuals and promote good access to a variety of transit services.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to provide sidewalks and walking routes that meet the needs of senior and mobility challenged individuals and promote good access to a variety of transit services. Pathway does not propose any sidewalks or walking routes as described in Goal 6 above. Pathway is not a transit project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

AN AUTHENTIC AURORA

PRINCIPLE: THE CREATION OF GREAT PLACES, THE PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONALLY UNIQUE PLACES AND EFFECTIVE MARKETING AND PROMOTION ARE ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVING AURORA'S IMAGE.

Goal 1: Create distinctive destinations that attract people from around the region and the world.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to create distinctive destinations that attract people from around the region and the world. Pathway is a utility project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 2: Protect the character and quality of established neighborhoods and districts throughout Aurora. Proactively prevent decay, decline or disinvestment within the community.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to protect the character and quality of established neighborhoods and districts throughout Aurora, and proactively prevent decay, decline or disinvestment within the community. Pathway is a \$1.7 billion investment proposed by Xcel Energy to improve the state's electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway will ensure a safe, reliable, and economical electric service to the public, boost the regional economy, and create jobs during its construction. Pathway is not a residential development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 3: Use high-quality community design to create vibrant and active places where people choose to live and work.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to use high-quality community design to create vibrant and active places where people choose to live and work. Pathway is not a residential or commercial development; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 4: Promote Aurora's welcoming, diverse neighborhoods and parks and open space system as key reasons to live in or visit Aurora.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to promote Aurora's welcoming, diverse neighborhoods and parks and open space system as key reasons to live in or visit Aurora. Pathway is not a residential development and will not impact parks or open space as described in Goal 2 of the *A Healthy Community Goal* section and Goal 3 of the *A Thriving Environment* section.

Goal 5: Use Aurora's heritage and historic resources as a basis for community events, urban design and community pride.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to use Aurora's heritage and historic resources as a basis for community events, urban design, and community pride. Pathway is not an urban design project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

Goal 6: Use diverse cultural resources and the arts in urban districts and other placetypes to create destinations.

Xcel Energy acknowledges Aurora's goal to Use diverse cultural resources and the arts in urban districts and other placetypes to create destinations. Pathway is not an urban design project; therefore, this goal does not directly apply to Pathway.

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