# DOWNTOWN BOULDER USER SURVEY 2010









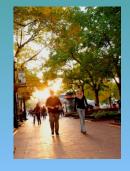
**November 2010** 











- Key Findings and Highlights
- Overview of Sales Tax Data



- Downtown User Mix and Demographics
- Spending Patterns
- Motivations / Activities



- Satisfaction Ratings
- Special Events / Transient Behavior
- Comments from Users





#### Methodology

- 822 completed interviews collected between mid-July and late August 2010
- Random intercept surveys conducted on the four blocks of the Pearl Street Mall plus one block on either side
- Surveys done between 11:30am and 8:00pm, various days of the week
- Similar methodology to past years, allowing for comparisons over time





### **Key Findings and Highlights**

- Higher proportion of out-of-state visitors this summer
- Lower average spending per person
- Satisfaction levels very high
- Special events are more of a motivator to some and less to others
- Most said transient behavior has no impact on their experience
- Parking satisfaction generally very good











# **Key Findings and Highlights**

- Primary competition includes 29<sup>th</sup>
   Street, Downtown Denver
- Overnight visitors spend 4.4 nights and are in a travel party of 2.7 people
- Downtown area has an attractive blend of stores and restaurants
- Comments regarding more restrooms, better signs, more diverse restaurant choices, continued desire for local stores











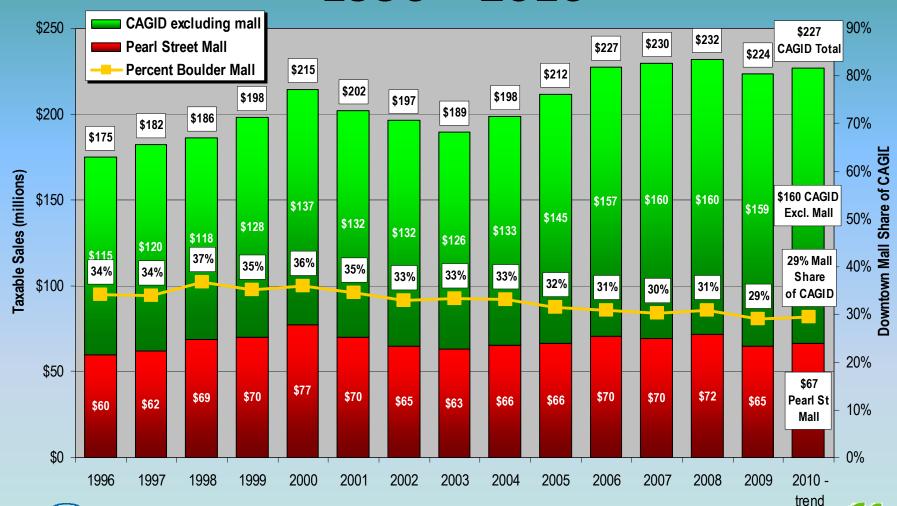
#### **Sales Tax Data**

- Downtown area (CAGID) annual taxable sales peaked in 2006-2008 period, declined in 2009, projected to be approx. \$227MM in 2010
- Pearl Street Mall's share of CAGID taxable sales has declined from 37% (1998) to 29% (2010)
- By month, Downtown taxable sales are highest in June to August period, followed by December and May





# CAGID Taxable Sales: Mall vs. Other 1996 – 2010\*

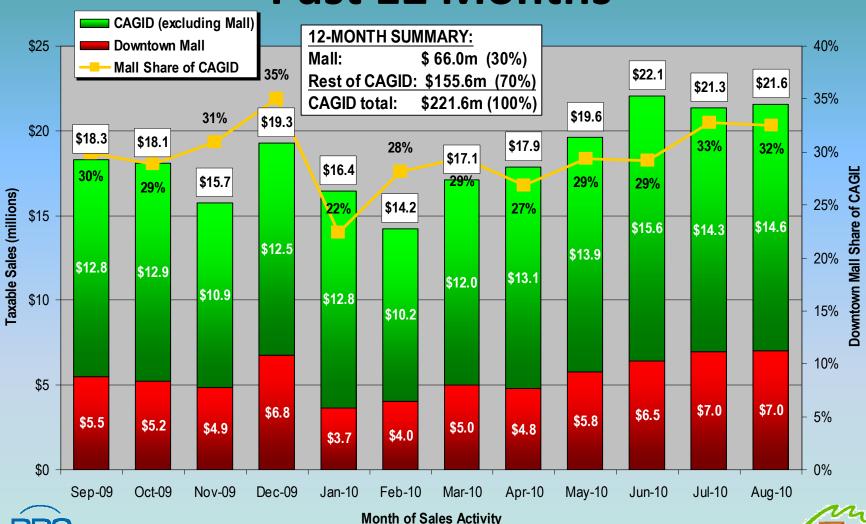




(\*2010 based on trend thru August)

thru Aug

# CAGID Taxable Sales: Mall vs. Other Past 12 Months





#### **Sales Tax Data**

- Restaurants account for nearly half of Downtown's taxable sales, though the Mall represents a declining share of Downtown
- Downtown's share of City of Boulder taxable retail sales is about 11%
- Downtown's share by sector shows competition in both restaurants and apparel



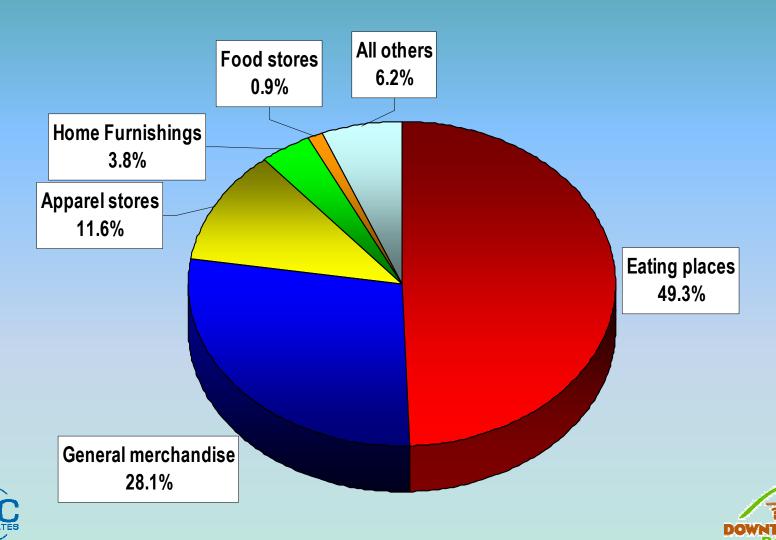






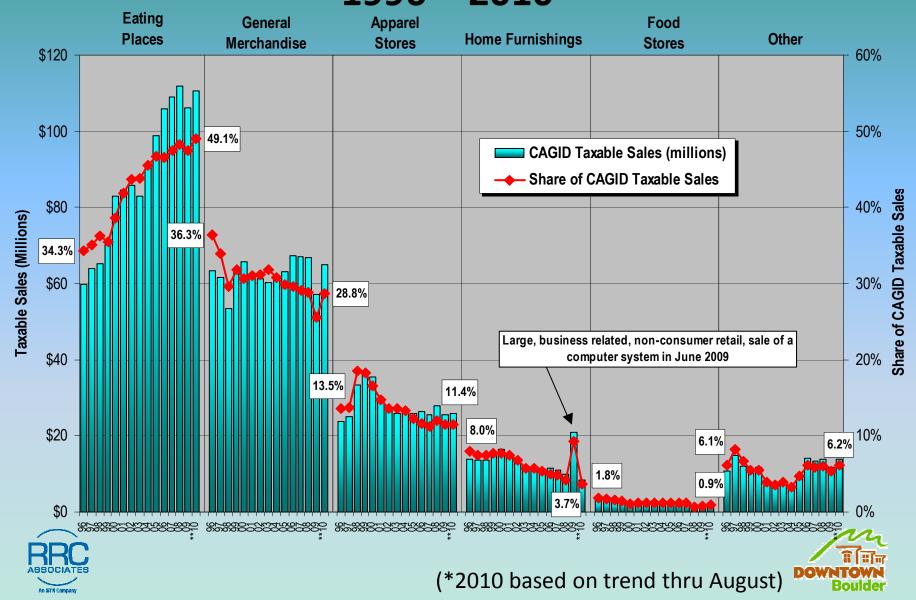


# CAGID Taxable Sales by Sector: Sep. 2009 – Aug. 2010

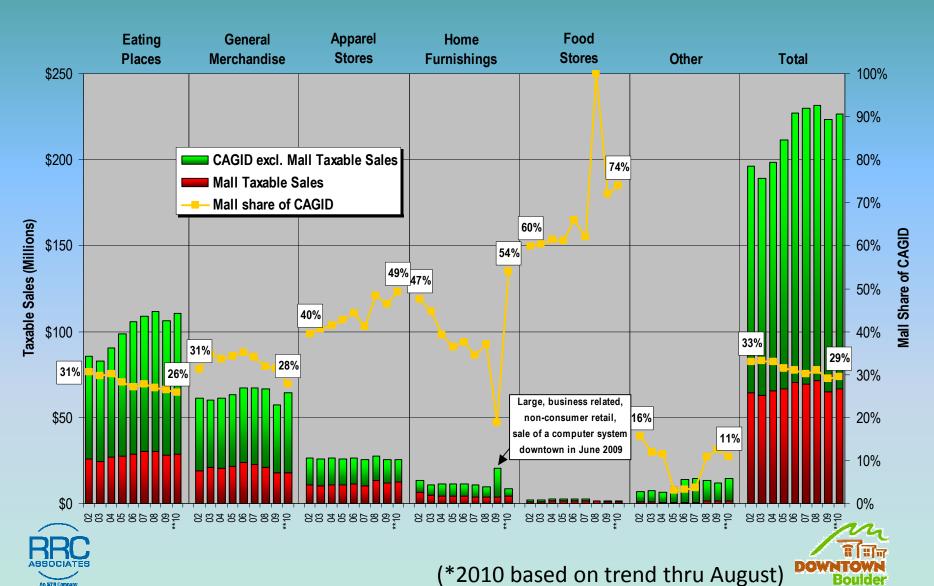


#### **CAGID Taxable Sales by Sector**

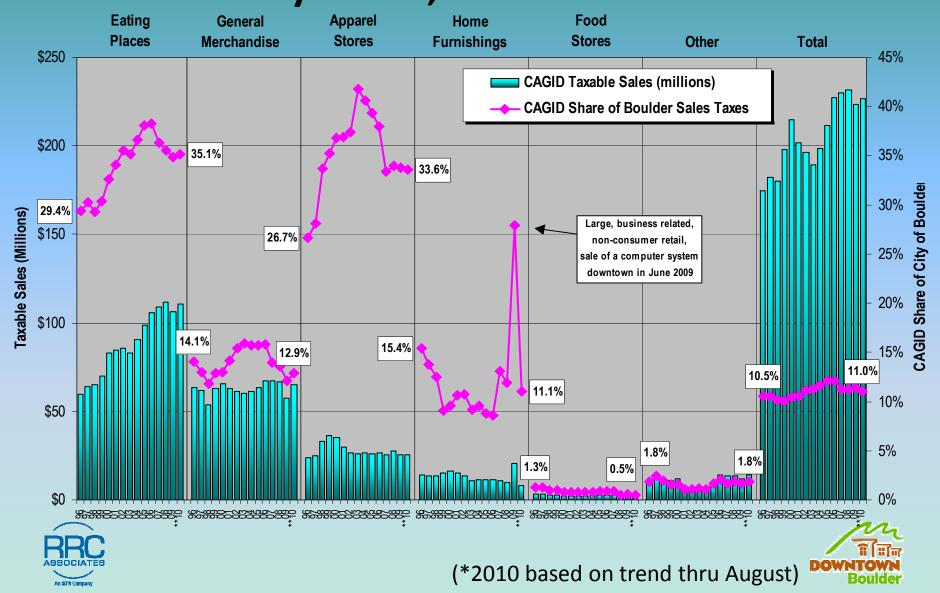
1996 - 2010\*



# CAGID Taxable Sales by Sector: Mall vs. Other CAGID: 2002–2010\*

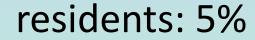


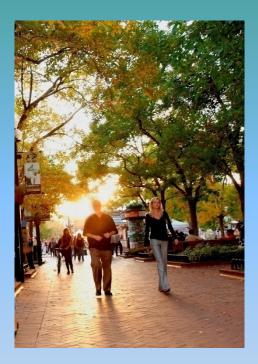
#### CAGID Taxable Sales & CAGID Share of City: By Sector, 1996 – 2010\*



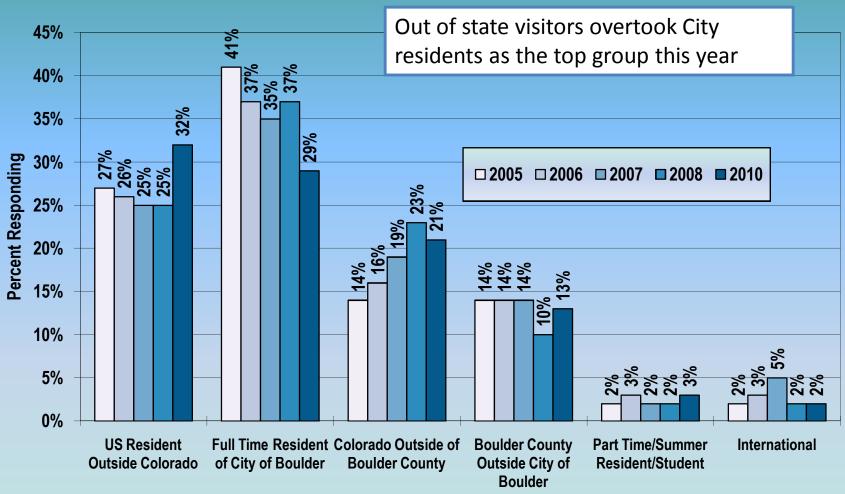
## **User Type**

- Out-of-state visitors: 32%
- City of Boulder residents: 29%
  - > North Boulder: 30%
  - Downtown core area: 21%
  - > South Boulder: 20%
  - Central/West Boulder: 16%
- Colorado outside Boulder County: 21%
- Boulder County outside City: 13%
- International/part-time residents/summer





## Visitor Residency by Year







#### **Overnight Visitors**

- 26% of all users were spending the night
- About half staying with family/friends and half staying in commercial lodging
- General recreation/vacation (37%), visiting family/friends (33%) were top two reasons for the trip
- CU biggest attraction (38%), followed by Chautauqua (22%), Dushanbe Teahouse (19%)





### **User Demographics**

- Average age: 41.6 years, most between 21 and 64
- Blend of family types: 1/3 singles no kids, 28% families with kids, 17% couples no kids, 16% empty nest
- 51% male/49% female
- Range of HHI, most between \$25K and \$200K
- 16% of all users are employees, 15% are students









#### **Spending Patterns**

- 89% made or will make a purchase
- Average per person spending is \$52.12, down 6% from 2008 (\$55.53), but above every year prior to 2008
- Spending up in retail stores (\$28.59, up 7%)
   but down in restaurants/bars (\$22.23, down 20%); both very similar to 2007 results











# **Spending Penetration and Avg. Spending 2004 - 2010** (Not Including Non- Spenders)

	YEAR OF SURVEY							
SPENDING PATTERNS	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010		
% Making Purchase Today	87%	89%	88%	89%	84%	89%		
Restaurant/Bar	\$17.69	\$19.46	\$24.62	\$21.88	\$27.82	\$22.13		
Retail Store/Art Gallery	\$19.33	\$27.54	\$25.84	\$28.38	\$26.55	\$28.59		
Other	\$1.18	\$1.67	\$0.80	\$1.32	\$1.16	\$1.41		
Total	\$38.20	\$48.67	\$51.26	\$51.58	\$55.53	\$52.12		





# Spending Penetration and Avg. Spending by 2010 User Type (Not Including Non- Spenders)

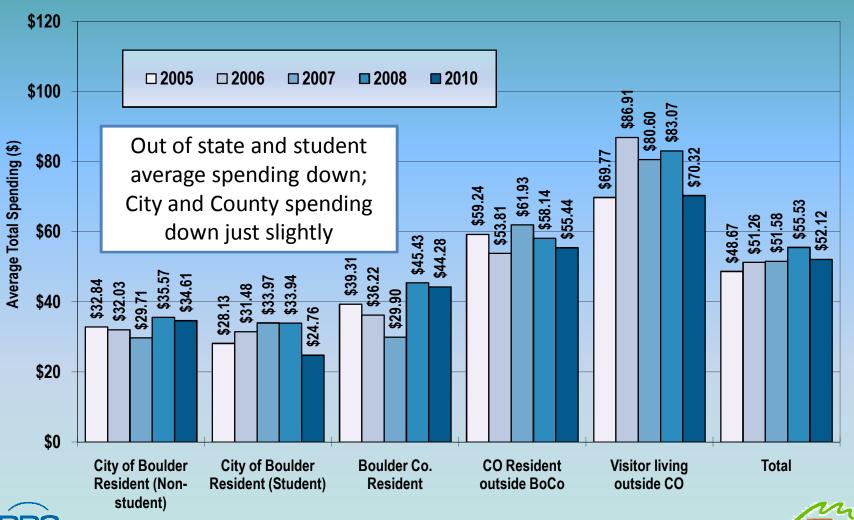
	2010 USER TYPE							
SPENDING PATTERNS	City of Boulder Resident (Non- Student)	City of Boulder Resident (Student)	Boulder Co Resident	CO Resident Outside BoCo	Visitor Living Outside CO			
% Making Purchase Today	86%	83%	83%	90%	93%			
Restaurant/Bar	\$17.56	\$12.22	\$19.93	\$23.62	\$27.19			
Retail Store/Art Gallery	\$16.75	\$12.44	\$23.92	\$29.76	\$40.76			
Other	\$0.30	\$0.09	\$0.43	\$2.07	\$2.37			
Total	\$34.61	\$24.76	\$44.28	\$55.44	\$70.32			





#### **Average Total Spending**

(Not Including Non-Spenders)







#### **Motivations to Visit**

- Primary reason for coming downtown was hanging out/people watching (41%), followed by shopping (15%), eating a meal (12%), employment/job (9%), and special event (5%)
- Top secondary reason is a meal (52%), shopping (37%), coffee/ice cream/snack (36%), hanging out (35%), and watching street entertainment (27%)



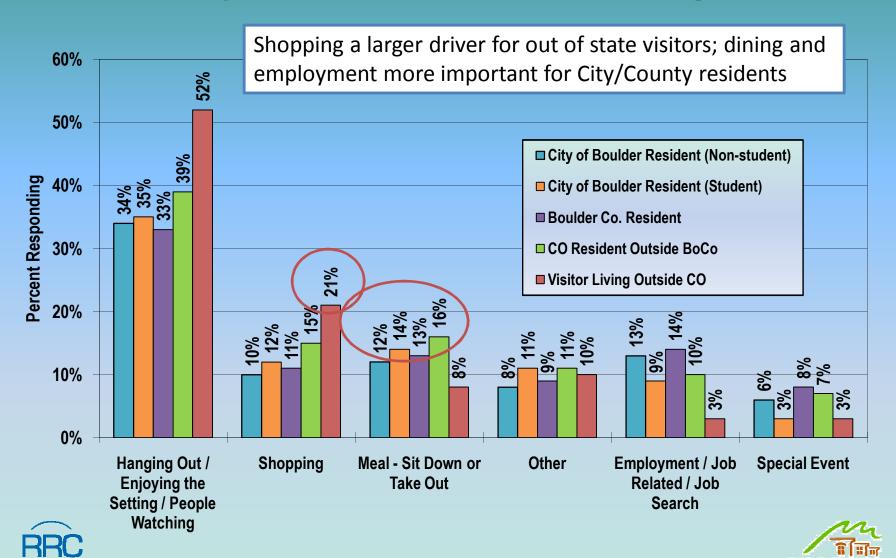




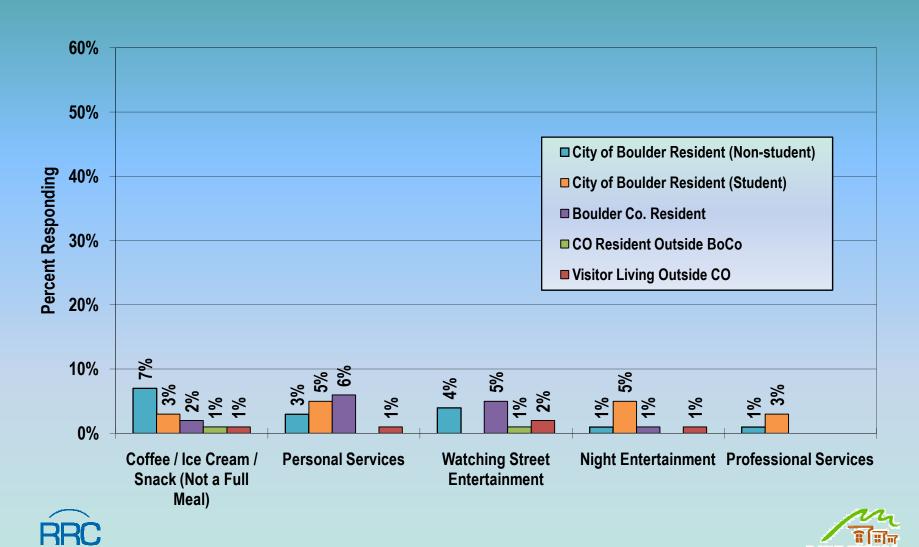




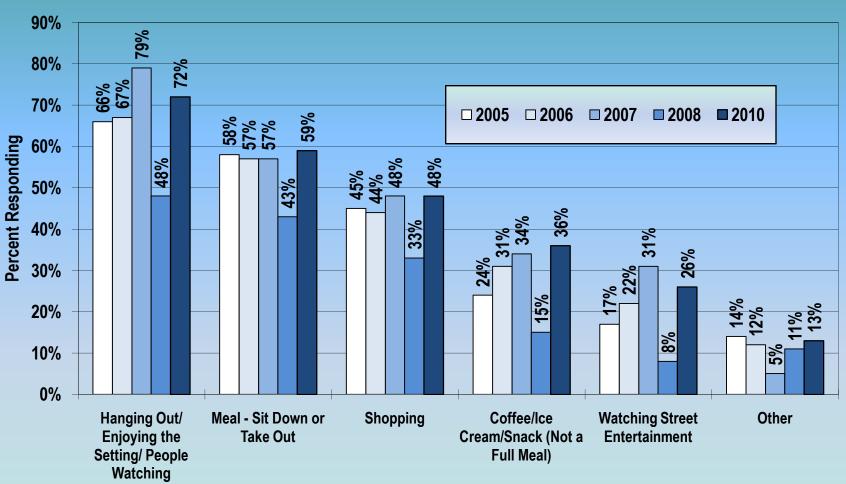
#### Primary Reason for Coming (1 of 2)



## Primary Reason for Coming (2 of 2)



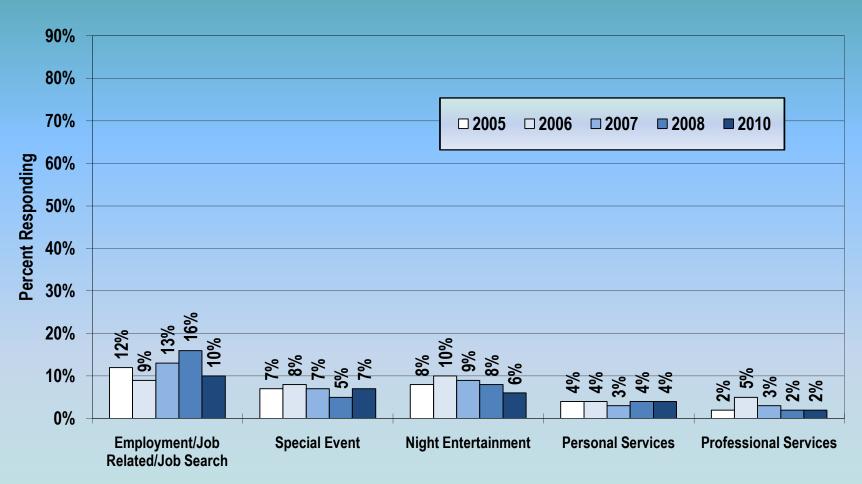
## All Activities this Visit (1 of 2)







### All Activities this Visit (2 of 2)







#### **General Satisfaction**





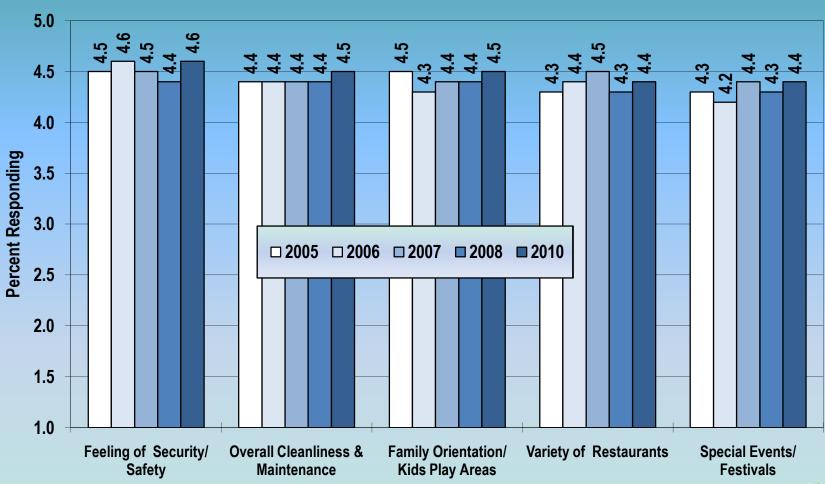


- General satisfaction very high
- Highest rated were feeling of security/safety, overall cleanliness & maintenance, and family orientation/ kids play areas
- Improvements seen for customer service in retail stores, feeling of safety/security, and Downtown Information Center





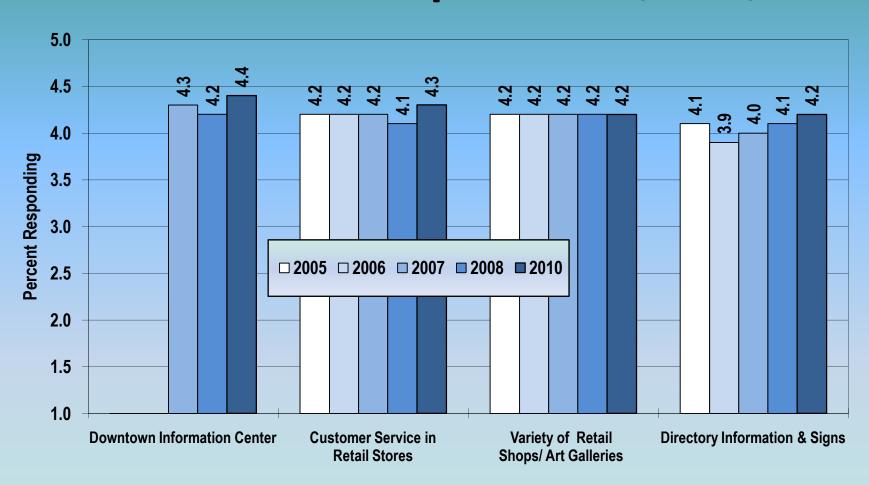
# Satisfaction Ratings of Downtown Experience (1 of 2)







# Satisfaction Ratings of Downtown Experience (2 of 2)







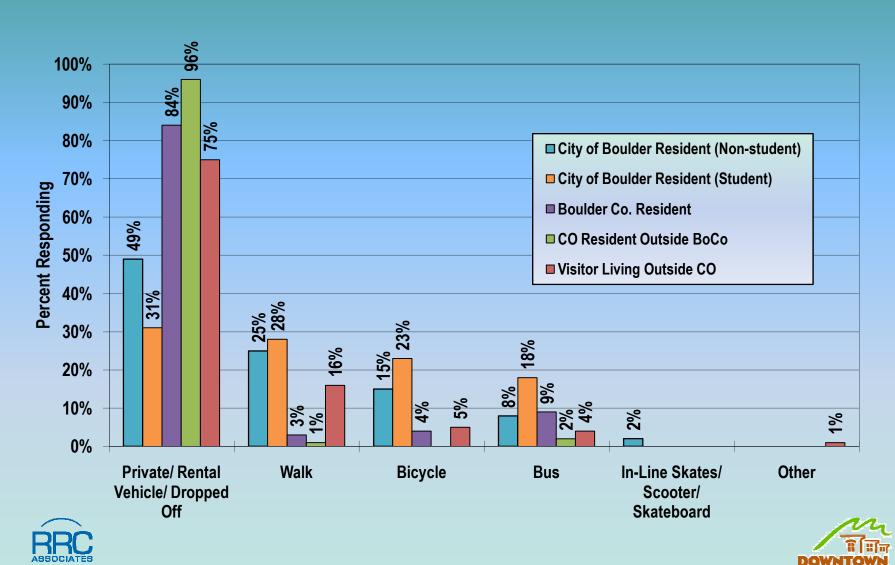
#### **Parking Patterns and Satisfaction**

- 71% got downtown by car, 14% walked, 8% rode a bike, 6% took the bus
- Only half of City of Boulder residents drove
- 45% parked on-street (pay station), 28% parked in structures, 17% on-street (free)
- Satisfaction with parking generally very good;
   noticeably higher for out-of-county users

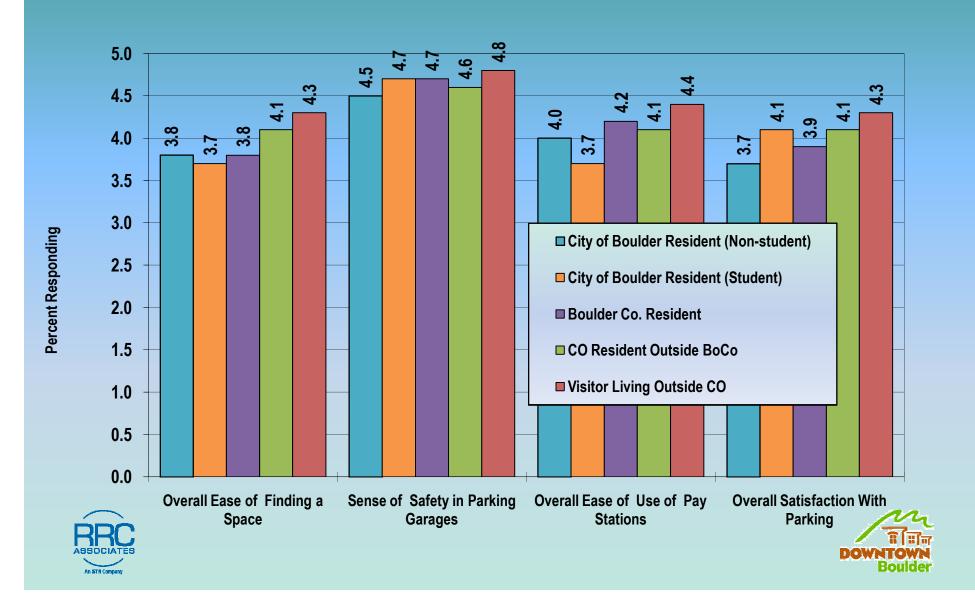




# **Mode of Transportation**



## Ratings of Parking Experience



#### **Special Events**

- Opinion evenly split about the motivational role of special events in Downtown Boulder
- 24% said special events are "very important motivators; without them, I would come downtown less often"
- 24% said they have "little or no influence on my decisions"
- About half said they would "occasionally come downtown for a special event, but I usually come for other reasons"









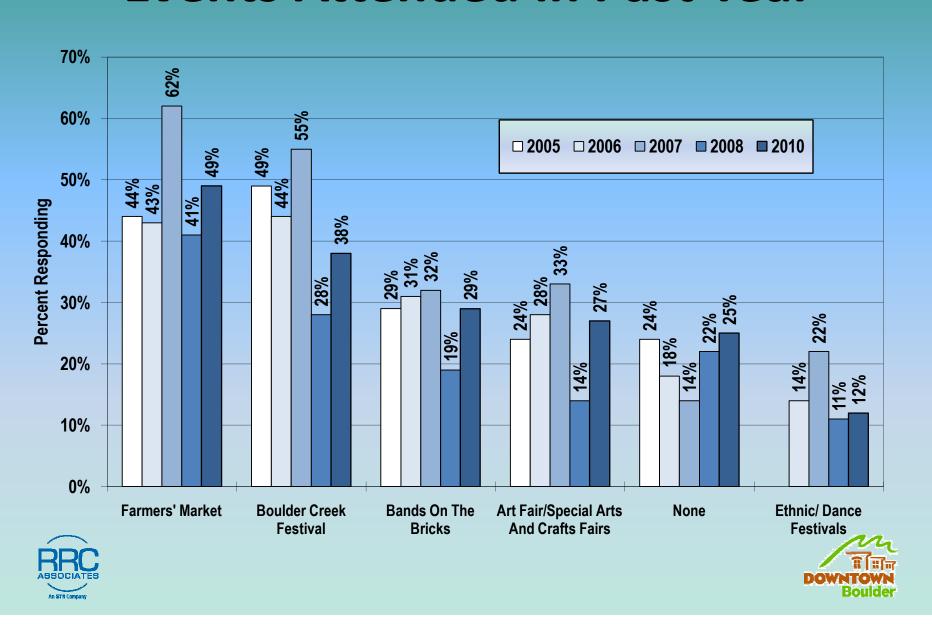




#### **Role of Special Events**



#### **Events Attended in Past Year**



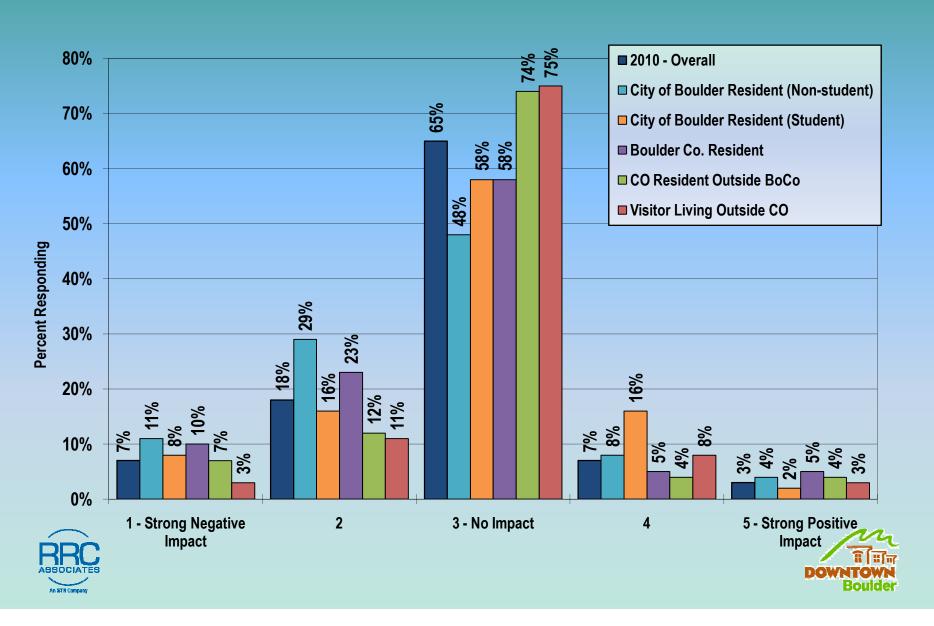
#### **Transient Behavior**

- Most respondents (65%) indicated that transient activities/behaviors have "no impact" on their experience downtown
- Overall, 25% said transient behavior has a negative impact, 10% said it has a positive impact
- City residents are most likely to say transient activities have a negative impact (40%)
- Users from outside Boulder County more likely to say there is "no impact" (74% to 75%)





#### Do Panhandlers Impact Your Enjoyment?



# Advertising/Marketing

- Overall 15% were aware of ads or information prior to their visit; 25% of City/County residents were aware
- Top ad sources were newspaper (41%), brochure (14%), boulderdowntown.com (11%), and radio (10%)
- Frequent websites include Google, NY Times, Facebook, Yahoo, ESPN, Denver Post, Hotmail, and others





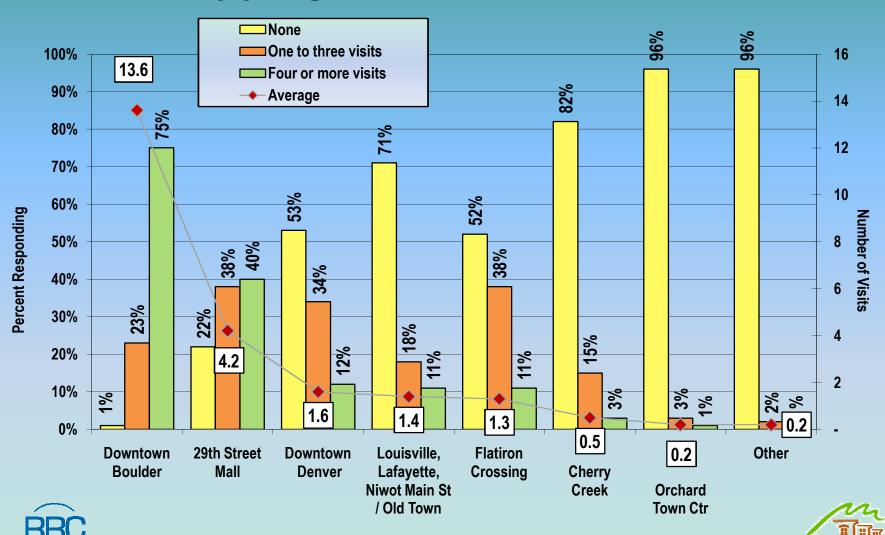
#### Competition

- Average visits to Downtown Boulder in past two months = 13.6 times
- 29<sup>th</sup> Street mall next most popular, at 4.2 times
- Downtown Denver averages 1.6 visits
- Other shopping areas queried were less popular, including Louisville, Lafayette, FlatIron Crossing, Cherry Creek, and Orchard Town Center





# Visits to Downtown Boulder and Other Shopping Areas in Past 2 Months



#### **Additional Stores Desired**

- Apple store
- Convenience store
- Forever 21
- The Gap
- Walgreens, hardware store
- REI

- More midlevel retailers
- More bookstores
- Like local stuff, Ten Thousand Villages.
- More designer clothes





#### **Additional Restaurants Desired**

- Zolo, Laudisio
- The Orchid Pavilion, Indian food
- Real Mexican food
- Restaurants are already a strength
- Noodles and Company
- In & Out Burger
- Already a good variety

- Chinese food
- Favorite places already here
- Pretty much already covered
- PF Chang's





#### **Additional Comments from Residents**

- Better bathrooms cleaner
- Better parking, don't like new parking meter
- Can be frustrating to park
- Would shop here if there were more local shops
- More variety of shops
- More police presence/ security, parking limits constrict people
- Better street signs

- Less penal approach to parking; encouragement, support of buskers
- Indoor playground for winter
- Good as is
- Easier for alternative stores to rent
- Cheaper rent and parking
- Bring down rent get more local stores





#### **Additional Comments from Visitors**

- Should keep bathrooms clean, but love music
- On signs, clearly include bus routes
- Pretty great, super clean
- More trash cans/recycle; keep doing what you are doing
- More shade/trees
- Great area
- Appreciate police and the job they do

- Better mix of restaurant class low to high
- Cheaper parking, more public restrooms
- Crack down on dogs, too many bums around courthouse
- Hard to make it better
- Keep stores as local as possible
- Lovely the way it is
- More directories and restrooms
- Make meters take dollars

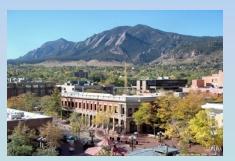


## **Observations/Conclusions**

- Satisfaction remains high
- Higher share of out-of-state visitors
- Downtown attracts a variety of users for a variety of reasons
- Special events are a motivator to most, either moderately or strongly
- Transient behavior generally has little impact on experience
- Average spending is down











#### **THANK YOU!**













