

» Project Update - August 2015

About the Project

Planning to Succeed (P2S) is a long-range planning effort to update the City's Comprehensive Plan to prepare for anticipated employment and population growth and community change. The City has enlisted a team of consultants led by Hoisington Kogler Group Inc. (HKGi) to assist in this effort. The comprehensive plan will set forth a vision and goals for the city's future- with focus on land use and development patterns, transportation systems, public utilities, and fiscal conditions- and will provide the foundation for policies and strategies to implement the Plan.

This P2S project employs an integrated land use, transportation, and fiscal analysis and computer-aided modeling process to evaluate alternative scenarios for the future growth and development of the city. The scenario modeling does not produce the final plan, but rather provides a basis for evaluating various land use and infrastructure options and the potential outcomes and impacts (public facilities, fiscal, environmental, etc) related to those options. The output of the modeling process ultimately informs the development of the future land use plan and policies within plan document.

Once the model outputs are completed (this fall), there will be opportunities for the public to weigh in on potential options, outcomes, and priorities for the City (see the project timeline on the following page for more details). Technical evaluation of existing and potential future public facilities is also incorporated throughout the process, as these key elements influence growth options and outcomes.

Coordination with the DMC Development Plan

The City's Comprehensive Plan update has been coordinated with the DMC Development Plan since the consultant selection process; several of the consultants/sub-consultants selected were common to both projects in order to assist with coordination between projects, avoid duplicate work, and facilitate a more efficient and cost-effective overall effort.

Community Engagement Highlights

Community engagement for P2S began in mid-2014. Early outreach consisted of online and in-person events and activities, including surveys and toolkits, to gather

baseline input on present and future conditions. An online "Crowdgaugue" survey and interactive community workshops were also employed to better understand community priorities, test possible plan directions, and help formulate alternative land use scenarios for the modeling process. In total, the project team has collected over 5,000 points of input from the Rochester community, including input gleaned from recent engagement related to the DMC Development Plan, the Bicycle Master Plan, and the About You Community Asset Inventory.

In May 2015, the City convened a Comprehensive Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC), comprised of residents, employees, and representatives from local businesses and institutions. Committee members will serve as process and content "stewards" for the preparation of the plan and community engagement process, meeting on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.



Brainstorming activity from the Community Advisory Committee meeting (July 2015)

Progress to Date

» Key tasks completed to date include initial data collection, background research, and analysis of existing conditions (socio-economic, environmental, fiscal, utilities, transportation, etc.); this work was summarized in a series of technical memoranda (completed May 2015), including:

- Background Documents Summary
- Non-Motorized Transportation Analysis
- Travel Patterns and Link Analysis
- Transit System and Market Analysis
- Peer City Policy Review
- Existing Conditions Map Book

Progress to Date (Continued):

- » Completion of the “trends” scenario and preparation of related indicators (March 2015); this scenario assumes a continuation of recent growth and development trends and serves as a baseline for comparison to the alternative scenarios that are in development.
- » Partial build-out of datasets and input for the computer modelling of the two alternative scenarios; these scenarios will test ideas for how the city might grow and develop in the future, including targeted infill and redevelopment, transit and transportation system improvements, and constrained growth on the edges of the city; both scenarios reflect DMC development projections.
- » The project team is collaborating with the CAC to craft a community vision statement; the vision statement describes how the community will look, feel, and function in 2040 and serves as a framework for goals, policies, and strategies in the plan; the CAC has met twice this summer to provide input into a draft vision.

What’s Next?

Outputs from the scenario models will be packaged for public engagement and discussion this fall. The land use and fiscal modeling is an important component of the planning process, and while technically complex, incorporates and requires extensive coordination to help formulate and ultimately evaluate alternative scenarios. This higher level of complexity is above and beyond what is typically seen in traditional land use planning processes, and has required longer processing time. Given various delays in the planning process, as well as the complexity of the land use and fiscal impact modeling, the project team anticipates completion of the comprehensive plan (including final approvals) by the end

of 2nd quarter 2016. The team previously anticipated completion of a draft plan by year end 2015, and has moved that date out to early spring 2016. The graphic below shows the overall timeline for the P2S project with completed task shown in black and forthcoming tasks in blue. Key milestones towards completion of the plan include:

- » The project team expects to complete the land use modeling in **late September**.
- » Key evaluation metrics, or “indicators,” will be developed to help evaluate alternative scenarios relative to community growth, transportation systems (walk, bike, transit, and roads), infrastructure (including sewer and water), access to parks, opportunities for active/healthy living, energy consumption (coordinated with Energy Action Plan consultants), and public finance – to be completed **by November 2015**.
- » Community engagement activities are planned for **early November of 2015** to seek feedback on the alternative scenarios and related indicators to help inform development of a preferred future land use plan.
- » Following the November community engagement, the project team will continue preparing the content of the plan, targeting **early spring of 2016** to have a completed draft of the comprehensive plan for public review.
- » Consultants will continue to engage with a technical staff team on a regular basis for the duration of the project. The technical team includes representatives from all public infrastructure providers (Public Works, RPU, Park/Rec), as well as Finance and Planning. Consultants have also engaged with the City Department Head team to gather and share information.

PROJECT TIMELINE

