

Memorandum

City of Lawrence / Douglas County Planning and Development Services

TO: David L. Corliss, City Manager
Craig Weinaug, County Administrator

FROM: Scott McCullough, Director

Date: September 25, 2013

RE: *Horizon 2020 -Update Process*

Horizon 2020 is the comprehensive plan for the city of Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County. A comprehensive plan expresses a community's desires about the future image of the community. It provides the foundation and framework for making physical development and policy decisions. The planning process for *Horizon 2020* was initiated in 1991 and after years of public involvement, it was adopted in 1998. While the adoption of the plan was adopted 15 years ago, it has been continuously amended to address changing trends and beliefs about development in the community. Additionally, the plan undergoes an annual review.

Planned Community Review of *Horizon 2020*

Because *Horizon 2020* has been continuously amended to address changing conditions since its adoption, a major rewrite of the plan is not necessary, in staff's opinion. The recently added and amended chapters and sector plans of the plan were developed with significant public input and compromises. The basic tenets of the plan are sound, but there is opportunity to confirm certain concepts or discuss new trends and concepts for future growth and development.

To achieve this, and as identified on the 2013 Long-Range Planning Work Program, staff intends to complete a series of meetings to inform the public on the plan's concepts and also receive input as to what revisions should be pursued by the Planning Commission. Staff does not anticipate hiring a consultant to comprehensively overhaul the plan. Much of the technical and demographic data in the plan will be revised during this process so that the plan is able to serve the community in guiding future growth. This effort will produce an updated plan that is aligned with the wastewater and water master plans, T2040 (the metropolitan transportation plan), and other plans the city uses to guide growth and development.

Proposed Update Process

Staff is proposing a three phase plan for the update of *Horizon 2020*. Staff recommends that a steering committee, as outlined below, guide the development of the plan update and complete their charge by April 1, 2015.

- Suggested composition of the steering committee (10)
 - Co-chairs (City Commissioner and County Commissioner)
 - 1 Planning Commission representative – City appointee
 - 1 Planning Commission representative – County appointee
 - 1 USD 497 representative – USD 497 appointee
 - 1 Real estate/Development community representative – City/County shared appointee
 - 1 Neighborhood representative – City appointee
 - 1 Business community representative – County appointee
 - 1 At-large city representative – City appointee
 - 1 At-large county representative – County appointee

Phase 1 – Public Education and Issue Identification

- Conduct a series of public meetings to educate and to identify issues
- Known issues:
 - Update demographics to current data
 - Updated Urban Growth Areas (UGA) align with sector plans
 - Update the format of the document to be consistent throughout and user friendly
 - Commercial areas – compact, pedestrian friendly, mixed use, walkable, locations in unincorporated centers
 - Incorporate 2012 utilities master plans findings and recommendations
 - Change the name of the plan
- Review goals and strategies of the plan
- Tools to gather public input
 - Conduct a web survey to identify issues
 - Use social media to request comments
 - Use comment cards at public meetings
 - Provide contact and updates via listserv

Phase 2 – Issue Prioritization

- Steering committee
 - Determine the issues as identified in the public meetings to address in the plan

Phase 3 – Draft Plan

- Review and guide the processing of plan amendments through the Planning Commission, City Commission and Board of County Commission

Action Requested

Confirm process, adopt the joint City-County Resolution (Nos. 7045/____) and appoint steering committee members.