



Comprehensive Plan/Municipal Code Advisory Group Meeting Minutes October 18, 2023

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

Advisory Group Members Present:

Steve Shepro, Council Member
Lauren Ruskoff, Community Member
Russell Joe, MBAKS
Meagan Watne, Community Member
Peter Kamb, Community Member
Sim Jhutti, Community Member
Ben Hagglund, Community Member

Staff Present:

Patricia Love, Community Development Director
Tansy Schroeder, City Planner
Audrey Rotrock, Associate Planner

Advisory Group Members Absent:

Tim Schmitt, Council Member
Kristine Birkenkopf, Community Member
Jami Sollid, Community Member

2024 Comprehensive Plan Partial Land Use and Full Transportation Design Drafts

The Advisory Group reviewed the first full draft of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element along with a partial draft of the Land Use Element. A full draft of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan is expected to be drafted by the end of the year.

Staff requested that the Group review and provide comments on the attached chapters so that when the draft plan issued for formal public review in early 2024 it includes the Group's recommendations. These Elements are broken into Chapters telling the story of the City as follows:

Land Use Element:

- Key Takeaways
- Introduction
- Community Feedback
- Growth Management in Stanwood
- A Tale of Two Downtowns
- Historic Preservation
- Downtown Flood Management
- Uptown
- Current Land Use Inventory
- Future Land Use Capacity
- Essential Public Facilities

Transportation Element:

- Key Takeaways
- Introduction
- Transportation and Community Vision
- Transportation Inventory
- Existing Highways and Street Systems



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- Traffic Volumes: A 2022 Snapshot
- What is it like to travel in Stanwood?
- Stanwood Traffic and Safety
- LOS Standards: Local Scale
- LOS Standards: Regional Scale
- Freight System
- Non-Motorized Transportation Systems
- Public Transit: Bus Routes and Networks
- A Call to Action: Planning for 2044 Growth
- Land Use Forecasts
- 2044 Baseline Evaluation
- Future Intersection Operations
- Future Improvements and Capacity Issues
- Transportation Systems Plan: A Strategy for Improvement and Movement
- Key Partnership for TDM Actions
- Financing Program

Advisory Group Questions and Comments:

- Are the photos of people in the Comp Plan residents, or are they stock photos? These are pictures of residents at Stanwood events.
- Consider labeling the photos with residents in them with the event they were taken at.
- Verify that the East Stanwood graphic on “Growth Management in Stanwood” is accurate.
- Remove uptown language around the Haggens since that area was annexed in the 1990s.
- Downtown and uptown language works well.
- Change map colors on all Growth Management in Stanwood slides to match zoning map colors. Also, exhibit numbers in this section are mislabeled.
- Add a couple pages discussing climate change and sea rise, especially in the floodplain. The City is not able to do that at this time because that would require multiple scientific studies, and there is not enough time to complete that before the Comp Plan is due. There is already language discussing the floodplain and the Stillaguamish river, but not a full spread. This topic will likely be added in the 5-year update of the Comp Plan. The City will add a blurb that sea level rise and how it relates to the floodplain will be updated with future Comp Plan updates.

Uptown:

- The colors on the “Current Land Use Inventory” slide are hard to follow. All SFR zones should be colored the same throughout.
- Some AG members like the colors on the above-mentioned slide and how it shows the UGA, vacant infill parcels, commercial, etc. It would also be helpful to add a few street names for people to understand boundaries such as Pioneer Hwy and SR 532.



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- Does this map (mentioned above) take the missing middle into account? No, this map is intended to show land use in the Comp Plan. The missing middle issue will fall under the Municipal Code update.
- Are re-developable lands based on laws or future zoning? What is the map really showing? The map represents what is going to be adopted.

Future Land Use Capacity:

- Add what the acronym “AMI” stands for (Annual Median Income).
- Update the photo on the Essential Public Facilities page showing a business that is no longer there.
- Add a blurb to Essential Public Facilities that the state can’t mandate people to build public healthcare facilities. The city can provide opportunities, but it can’t be forced. The same is also true for the School District.
- There will be a section discussing collaboration between different government agencies.

Transportation:

- On the Traffic Volumes: A 2022 Snapshot slide, what do the numbers represent on the roads? Staff believes that the number represents trips per day but will confirm that.
- On the What Is It Like to Travel in Stanwood slide, make the arrow representing the most traffic larger to dictate more movement.
- All key takeaways need revision, including their associated images.
- There is only a small hint to non-motorized/multimodal means of travel, add more references to these.
- Clearly define what LOS stands for (Level of Service).
- Levels of Service is required in the Comp Plan by the State, therefore it cannot be removed.
- In the Reduce Traffic Key Takeaway, would like more information regarding the following sentence “New Downtown roads are also proposed to provide alternative routes across the railroad tracks”.
- On the Freight System slide, The Twin City Foods spur in not a usable portion of railway. Consider replacing it with the portion of railway near Heritage Park that is more usable.
- Add Rail Trail language.
- Add multi-use trails/paths on the map for the Non-Motorized Transportation Systems.
- Add Port Susan Trail to the Bicycle Facilities.
- Consider removing Marine Drive from the Bicycle Facilities map as it can be dangerous due to the higher speed limits.
- Add language to address how pedestrians cross the railroads, and other pedestrian barriers.
- Change the green and yellow colors on the Future Pedestrian Network Figure.

Public Transit:

- The Public Transit Map is too busy. Separate Community Transit Line from other transit options.



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- Revise the Land Use Forecasts map color scheme.
- On the Transportation Strategies slide, under Type of Improvement, consider making Widening/Reconstruction two separate categories.

Parks Policy Review

The meeting ran out of time and this topic will be brought back to the November Advisory Group meeting.

SMC Title 7 – Health and Sanitation & Title 8 – Animals Draft Text

Staff asked the Group to review this topic on their own and email their comments in by October 27, 2023. The Group and Staff will discuss the comments at the November meeting.

Adjourn: 7:00