

Plan Implementation

The goals and recommendations of any comprehensive plan are vital for setting expectations for the future direction of the community. Whether the locality actually moves in that direction or not depends on the willingness of the governing body to implement the recommendations of the Plan. This implementation might be in the form of ordinance changes, capital improvement projects or new initiatives, but it is the true test of the local commitment to the established plan.

Prioritization

To make best use of projected funding opportunities, it is important to have a workplan that prioritizes projects based upon need, form, and function. There are some projects that logically need to be undertaken first, in order to provide needed input or clarity for other, later projects. The following work plan highlights the initial priorities of the comprehensive plan. The Plan and its recommended strategies are comprehensive and extensive. However, as Town resources are finite, it is necessary to prioritize the plan recommendations to make efficient strides towards this established vision. As items on this list are accomplished, priority should shift to other projects contained within the Action Plan.

Immediate Efforts

Time Frame: Ongoing – related to established Town processes

- Establish a plan implementation committee, monitor plan implementation, and actively update the matrix and plan as needed.
- Utilize the recommendations of this comprehensive plan to develop and rank annual capital improvement priorities.
- Identify and evaluate projects throughout all sectors of Town government needed to maintain established levels of service and include these within the town's annual budgeting processes.
- Collaborate with Charleston County, Mount Pleasant Waterworks, and surrounding municipal partners to ensure planning priorities and policies are aligned across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Actively explore opportunities to work with landowners to permanently protect lands and valuable corridors (through conservation easements or other methods) for expansion of the open space network in the Town.

Short-term Efforts

Timeframe: Start in the next six months and complete within twenty-four months

- Initiate a wholesale revision of Town ordinances to simplify, streamline, and clarify Town Codes, while also implementing recommendations of this comprehensive plan.
- Undertake creating a Special Area Plan of the cultural core. This study should identify opportunities within this area that would simultaneously protect the essential character of the core, promote local history, and create economic and other opportunities to strengthen the community.

- Initiate and complete the hubs Special Area Plan, and revise zoning ordinances and land development regulations to define and develop standards for the development of hubs.
- Prepare the *Mount Pleasant Way* bicycle and pedestrian feasibility study, including an evaluation of the feasibility of a bike share program, and conduct preliminary engineering and cost estimation.
- Study revenue sources, development patterns, and market conditions to determine the Town's overall financial health and resilience of the community and to identify challenges and opportunities for assuring long-term financial resilience.

Mid-term Efforts

Timeframe: Start within eighteen months and complete within five years

- Create a comprehensive parks, recreation, and open space master plan identifying future recreation projects, as well as open space to be protected as natural areas.
- Conduct or update special area or functional plans where needed (as identified in the District Plan discussions).
- Begin planning and funding processes for a new community center focused on arts and culture.
- Begin relocating or retrofitting public facilities and infrastructure in accordance with the mobility and resilience focused recommendations of this Plan.
- Review the plan recommendations and create an updated annual work plan.
- Collaborate with the local communities, Mount Pleasant Waterworks, and Charleston County to develop special area plans for each settlement community, to include consideration of historic designation.
- Prepare a resilience strategy that includes (at a minimum) an inventory of potential hazards, an assessment of the vulnerability of community systems, and a plan for mitigation and community preparedness.

Long-Range Efforts

Timeframe: Varies by project, typically more than three years from adoption of the plan.

- Revisit plan policies and assess for effectiveness.
- Continue making lower priority capital improvements, as funding allows.
- Prepare for five-year update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Maintaining the Plan

To ensure that implementation of the Plan stays on track, it must be reviewed, monitored, and updated as conditions evolve. This must involve not only the elected and appointed officials responsible for implementing the comprehensive plan, but citizens of the community. A wide range of perspectives is essential to developing creative and realistic programs that will guide the Town successfully through both present and future challenges.

This Plan also recommends the creation of an advisory Implementation Committee to assist in oversight and prioritization of Plan recommendations for implementation. The Plan deliberately integrates land use, transportation and mobility, facilities, and resource preservation strategies in a consistent manner based on our vision statement. The Plan is only as effective as its implementation, so if the goals are to be achieved, it is important to enforce the recommendations of the Plan in the way they have been written or to consider and address the broad impacts an amendment may have on other parts of the plan and the community.

DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REFERENCE: P. 140 (P. 6-2)

<https://www.tompsc.com/DocumentCenter/View/29786/TCDraftPlanReduced>