

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.

Action Work Plan

No plan can be complete or carried out without defined actions to pursue. Throughout this plan, an extensive array of implementation steps has been identified to enable us to reach our collective future. Over 150 individual actions were identified in the Action Work Plan to begin implementation of the numerous recommendations of the Plan.

In the defined Work Plan, actions and tools are classified in various ways to help define the level of effort it will require to complete them or integrate them into operations. The following sections define the various classifications used in the Plan.

Civic Engagement

Ref	Action	Responsible Department	Priority	Time frame	Goals	Element
CE1	Initiate a program of creating special area plans to further refine development goals, standards and needs for designated parts of town.	Planning	High	Mid-Term	C	

Action Type

For organization’s sake, the Action Items identified within the Plan are organized by type of activity. Each Action Item is then also provided with a priority (High, Medium or Low), a timeframe (Ongoing, Short Term (<2 years), Mid-Term (2-5 years), and Long Term (5+ years), a key to which goals it is implementing, and an indication of which of the Plan Elements it is most strongly tied to. Some of the categories also indicate which departments are responsible for the action, and which outside organizations may work in partnership with us on the given item.

The types of projects defined to implement this Plan are as follows:

Administrative/Organizational:

Administrative or organizational policies, practices, and actions that are used to implement regulations, initiatives, or other actions or tools. This is the upper level approach to assigning both human and hard resources to executing the vision of the Town and plan. These changes can often be addressed within current staffing or resources just through modification in daily actions, making them potentially low or no-cost actions for implementation.

Regulatory/Guidelines

Adopted standards or guidelines that are either formally enforced as a law or may provide guidance for practices and actions that are not as enforceable as law but still represent official positions of the town.

Civic Engagement Opportunities

Civic Engagement Opportunities denote situations where the Town should work with citizen groups to lay out a course of action that would entail the use of other types of tools or actions. Most initiatives or capital improvements would use a plan, study, or strategy process to execute their mission. Recommendations considered Civic Engagement Opportunities will provide a process for improvement and suggested changes to implement.

Partnership/Collaboration

Partnership/Collaborations are actions or tools that combine resources and efforts across departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to make the most of limited resources. These are critical in decision making and in capital projects or programs that impact the Town across specialties or systems.

Initiative/Program:

An activity or event that is designed to have a tangible set of results and may involve a spectrum of tools or mechanisms to achieve those results. Initiatives/Programs may be long-standing, and the mission or vision of these efforts may evolve over time. These tools are multi-faceted and complex and are the core of the recommendations of the Plan. Often an Initiative or Program can implement many of the strategies and recommendations of the Plan.

Capital Improvement:

A capital improvement is a tangible building or structure that is required for infrastructure, utilities, and the provision of services to the community. Capital improvements are the most tangible of all the actions or implementation tools. A capital improvement likely has an initial cost associated with acquiring or constructing the item and then an ongoing maintenance cost to keep the improvement in service.

DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REFERENCE: P. 146 (P. 6-8)

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

In conclusion...

There is no doubt that this new Plan is different from past plans. This is the very first plan where – out of necessity – the focus is not on continued outward growth and expansion. The urban growth boundary has been retained in its current location - large tracts of developable land no longer exist. Use of infill and redevelopment sites is becoming more common. Major demographic and technological changes are occurring at rapid rates, often creating friction and conflicts. Unincorporated lands are spread throughout the town's planning jurisdiction, complicating service provision and establishment of consistent development patterns.

Given the situation and pace of change, it is no surprise that competing interests and community values highlight a sense of division and a disconnect when trying to reconcile the Mount Pleasant of the past with what the future might hold. Some would argue that the battle has been lost. They point to carpool lines and traffic, new commercial properties, and big box stores, without small, local shops. They question new buildings which are out of character with certain parts of town. They lament the loss of locations where the shrimp boats and tomato farms used to be. They long to keep things the way they are. Or were.

Yet others see opportunity and the next challenge of managing future change as a natural step in the town's history. Where older, existing places can be re-envisioned and strengthened through redevelopment to create new, exciting gathering spots for people of all ages and incomes. Where new ideas can take existing assets and make them the envy of other communities. Where more choices in housing types and costs, transportation options, and employment opportunities can effectively balance the old with the new.

Mount Pleasant is indeed at an important junction in its history. How this community – and its leaders – faces this reality and responds to the challenge will be a telling, watershed moment.