

Planning Department: Strategic Look Ahead

1. Update the Thoroughfare Plan

Objective: Conduct a comprehensive review and update of the Town's Thoroughfare Plan to ensure the transportation network supports projected growth and meets the mobility, safety, and connectivity needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

Action Steps:

- Engage the community through surveys, public workshops, and online platforms to gather input.
- Collect and analyze existing transportation data, including traffic volumes, road conditions, and accident reports.
- Assess current and projected growth patterns and land use to determine future transportation requirements.

2. Regularly Update Planning Documents

Objective: Ensure the Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) remain current and responsive to changing needs.

Action Steps:

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of existing zoning codes.
- Develop standardized procedures and checklists to improve application submittals.
- Streamline approval processes to reduce administrative burdens.

3. Restructure the Planning Department

Objective: Establish a Department of Development Services by integrating planning, building, and zoning functions under unified leadership.

Action Steps:

- Identify and eliminate redundant functions to optimize efficiency.
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities within the new structure.
- Implement change management strategies to facilitate a smooth transition.

4. Integrate Technology

Objective: Leverage technology to improve the efficiency and accessibility of planning services.

Action Steps:

- Upgrade Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for enhanced land use analysis and visualization.
- Continue to enhance permitting systems for greater efficiency and transparency.

5. Enhance Interdepartmental and Regional Collaboration

Objective: Strengthen coordination with other municipal departments and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure cohesive development strategies.

Action Steps:

- Participate in regional planning initiatives to address cross-boundary challenges.
- Share data and resources to support joint objectives.

6. Promote Continuous Improvement and Training

Objective: Ensure staff are equipped with current knowledge and skills to effectively manage planning responsibilities.

Action Steps:

- Provide ongoing professional development opportunities.
- Encourage certification and accreditation in relevant planning disciplines.
- Foster a culture of innovation and adaptability within the department.

By implementing this strategic plan, the Planning Department can enhance its operations, better serve the community, and proactively adapt to future challenges.