

Providence City Plan Commission

June 18, 2024



AGENDA ITEM 1 ■ COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

OVERVIEW

PROPONENT: Department of Planning and Development

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of the Comprehensive Plan

CASE NO./PROJECT TYPE: Public hearing for approval of Comprehensive Plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Discussion and vote on Comprehensive Plan

PROJECT PLANNER: Robert Azar

Discussion

The City Plan Commission will conduct a public hearing on the comprehensive plan pursuant to RIGL 45-22.2-8. To inform the direction of the Comprehensive Plan update, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) led a two-year community participation process that included over 80 community events with engagement opportunities in every neighborhood in Providence. The process was designed to be accessible, iterative, and collaborative.

In 2022, a period of "listen and learn" engagement kicked off the process with goals of raising public awareness about the Comprehensive Plan, learning about how community members see and experience the City changing, and identifying the issues of highest importance.

In 2023, expanding on the findings from the 2022 engagement, the process entered a "visioning and ideation" phase. During this phase, surveys, workshops, and outreach events were conducted in collaboration with community organizations and elected officials to brainstorm solutions to critical issues such as housing, transportation, and climate change. Methods of participation varied from interactive polling and small group discussions at workshops, to online surveys and tabling at neighborhood block parties. DPD's analysis of the engagement results informed the internal drafting process.

Finally, in 2024, the DPD published draft elements of the plan and solicited feedback. Methods included public comment at City Plan Commission meetings, online comment through the project website, and a tour of public feedback events at neighborhood libraries. The draft chapters were revised based on this feedback to best represent the community's vision for Providence's future growth and development.

Updates on the plan and individual chapters were presented at regular and special CPC meetings starting in February through May 2024, where public comment was taken. The draft chapters were edited based on themes of feedback to best represent the community's vision for Providence's future growth and development. The DPD has prepared a memo that proposes further changes to include the information that was received during these hearings. The final draft of the plan also includes an introduction section and a matrix outlining the strategy to implement the plan's

objectives.

The CPC may revise the draft further prior to the close of the hearing based on information received in the course of the hearing. Once the CPC approves the plan, it will be reviewed by the City Council, which is required to hold at least one public hearing.

Councilman Miguel Sanchez has requested that the CPC take a separate vote on a change to the future land use map of the comprehensive plan regarding a land use designation change from low to medium density residential, and the corresponding zoning map change, for certain parcels in Ward 6 south of Triggs Golf Course in the Manton neighborhood.

Recommendation

Based on the foregoing discussion, the DPD recommends that the CPC take the following action:

1. The CPC should vote to recommend that the council approve the future land use map and zoning map change for the parcels in the Manton neighborhood.
2. The CPC should vote to find that the comprehensive plan conforms to the content requirements outlined in section RIGL 45-22.2-6 and advise the council to approve the plan.