



PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning & Development Services Department • 201 N. Stone Ave. • Tucson, AZ 85701

DATE: July 18, 2012
TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Ernie Duarte
Executive Secretary 
SUBJECT: Status of the New General Plan Preparation

The following provides background and progress information on the preparation of *Plan Tucson*, the new City of Tucson General Plan. The work is being conducted by planners from the City of Tucson Housing and Community Development Department, Planning and Community Development Division.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

Arizona State Law (ARS 9-461-05) requires that Arizona municipalities “shall adopt a comprehensive, long-range plan for the development of the municipality.” Once adopted, state law requires that a municipality’s plan be readopted or a new general plan be adopted every ten years. Under this law, the current Tucson General Plan, adopted in 2001, would need to have been readopted or a new plan adopted by 2011. However, a bill passed in April 2010 extended the ten-year provision to July 1, 2015.

OPPORTUNITY:

Preparing a new General Plan provides an opportunity to take stock of how Tucson has been developing physically, economically, and socially; to determine whether that development is in line with contemporary community values, best practices, and regional sensitivity, and to work with stakeholders to establish policies that will reinforce areas of success and help refocus policies in areas of concern.

CONTENT:

Staff is addressing 18 elements organized into 3 interrelated focus areas:

- ▶ **Environmental Integrity:** Energy & Climate Change; Green Infrastructure; Water; Environmental Quality
- ▶ **Socioeconomic Prosperity:** Housing; Economic Development; Education; Cultural Heritage & the Arts; Public Health; Urban Agriculture; Public Safety; Recreation; Community Participation
- ▶ **Smart Growth:** Land Use & Transportation; Urban Design; Redevelopment & Revitalization; Historic Preservation; Public Infrastructure & Facilities

SCHEDULE:

Plan preparation consists of three phases:

- ▶ **Phase I (2011) / Setting the Stage:** Background Research and Public Participation Plan Development
- ▶ **Phase II (2011-2012) / Working Together to Develop Goals & Policies:** General Public Introductory Meetings; Stakeholder Meetings; Agency and Organization Policy Working Groups; Goal & Policy Review and Refinement Meetings; and Community Workshops
- ▶ **Phase II (2013) / Formal Public Process:** Public Review & Comment; Planning Commission Recommendation; Mayor & Council Adoption; Voter Ratification [*Goal: Nov. 5, 2013 Election*]

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED:

- ▶ March 22, 2011: Mayor & Council Adopted Plan Tucson Public Participation Plan
- ▶ April 2011: 6 Introductory Meetings for General Public
- ▶ May 20, 2011: Stakeholders' Orientation Meeting
- ▶ June 10, 2011: Stakeholders' Guiding Principles Meeting
- ▶ July – June 2012: 39 Public Policy Working Groups with Stakeholders , and Presentations to Organizations as requested

CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

Staff are currently drafting goals and policies informed by stakeholder input, City policy initiatives undertaken over the past decade, and the current (2001) General Plan. Once drafted, the goals and policies will be made available for review to City Departments, Boards and Commissions, other agencies, stakeholders, and the general public in several iterations.