

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT
Regular Agenda – Public Hearing Item

PC Staff Report
6/23/10

**ITEM NO. 7: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO UPDATE CHAPTER 14;
SPECIFIC PLANS (MJL)**

CPA-4-2-10: Update Chapter 14 – Specific Plans to correct references made to the previous Chapter 13 – Implementation regarding the adoption process for plans. The reference needs to be updated to refer to Chapter 17 – Implementation. This was an oversight when the chapter was renumbered and was identified as a work item in the annual review of the Comprehensive Plan. *Initiated by Planning Commission on 4/26/10.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends updating Chapter 14 (Specific Plans) to change references to the previous Chapter 13 (Implementation) to reference Chapter 17.

SUMMARY

As part of the annual review of the comprehensive plan, staff determined that Chapter 13 – Implementation should be moved to the last chapter of the plan, Chapter 17. Chapter 13 is now reserved for a future chapter, if necessary, so that the Implementation chapter will not have to be moved again. However, there are still references to the former Chapter 13 in Chapter 14 -Specific Plans that needs to be updated to refer to Chapter 17. The only incorrect references appear on the first page of Chapter 14 (14-1).

STAFF REVIEW

References to Chapter 13 were an oversight when the Implementation chapter was moved to Chapter 17. Staff did not find any other incorrect references to Chapter 13 throughout the plan.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REVIEW

A. Does the proposed amendment result from changed circumstances or unforeseen conditions not understood or addressed at the time the plan was adopted?

The proposed amendment is intended to correct a previously overlooked error and does not represent a material change in the plan.

B. Does the proposed amendment advance a clear public purpose and is it consistent with the long-range goals and policies of the plan?

The proposed change helps to keep a logical flow of the plan and does not affect the goals and policies.

C. Is the proposed amendment a result of a clear change in public policy?

The change is to ensure that the Implementation chapter is properly referenced in preceding chapters of the plan and does not change policy.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends updating Chapter 14 (Specific Plans) to change references to the previous Chapter 13 (Implementation) to reference Chapter 17.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN – SPECIFIC PLANS

Purpose

Long-range planning in an area specific manner is an important aspect of the overall community planning process. Specific plans provide the focused guidance necessary for proper decision making regarding an area's future. Chapter 14 references adopted specific plans and provides guidance, through the Hierarchy of Plans, for completing the proper type of plan for an area.

The plans referenced below have been adopted through a Comprehensive Plan process, as described on pages ~~13~~ 17-8 and ~~13~~ 17-9. As such, these plans are considered Comprehensive Plan policy and are an element of *Horizon 2020*. The plans are separate documents from *Horizon 2020* and can be accessed online at <http://www.lawrenceplanning.org> or copies can be obtained by contacting the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Department.

Plans prepared for specific areas, whether they are areas within the City of Lawrence or areas within unincorporated Douglas County contain detailed policy guidance for those areas. The plans, when adopted through a Comprehensive Plan process, and referenced in this chapter, become the official Comprehensive Plan policy for the respective areas. The policy contained in the plans take precedence over other policy found in *Horizon 2020*, unless specifically stated otherwise in the Plans.

Plan Review

Plans can eventually lose their relevance to a specific area. Additionally, some plans will require review to confirm if policies are being followed, goals are being met, and implementation is occurring.

Therefore, it is necessary to ensure plans are reviewed on a regular basis to update them or to rotate them out of the Comprehensive Plan if they have lost their relevance. Each plan listed below has a date which will trigger a review of that plan. Planning Staff will review the plan to determine if it meets one of the following criteria and needs the required action:

1. Plan remains relevant - no action necessary.
2. Plan has been superseded by another plan - remove from Chapter 14.
3. Plan is out of date and no longer relevant – remove from Chapter 14.
4. Plan requires updating – staff will update and forward recommendations for Commission consideration.

Staff will report on the review of a specific plan to the Planning Commission along with a recommendation for action, if necessary. If an update is required, staff will provide the Planning Commission a plan to complete the update. A Comprehensive Plan Amendment will be required to remove a specific plan from Chapter 14 or to update a specific plan.