



City of Lawrence  
Douglas County  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Horizon 2020 Steering Committee  
City Commission Room  
4:00 – 6:00pm  
April 6, 2015

### **AGENDA**

- 1) Approve March 23, 2015 Meeting Notes**
- 2) Receive Revised Mission/Vision Statement from Bill Ackerly**
- 3) Receive Draft Format of Issue Action Report**
- 4) Discussion of Mission/Vision Statement, Community Values, and Draft Document Framework**

**Horizon 2020 Steering Committee  
March 23, 2015  
Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Comm. Thellman, Mayor Amyx, Bill Ackerly, Scott Zaremba, Lisa Harris, Marcel Harmon, Clay Britton, John Gascon, Kyra Martinez, Charlie Bryan (ex officio)

**Members Absent:** Patrick Kelly

**Staff Present:** Scott McCullough, Jeff Crick, Amy Miller

**Others Present:** Several members of the public were present.

Mayor Amyx welcomed everyone.

The meeting notes from the March 9, 2015 meeting were discussed. Motioned by Ackerly and seconded by Thellman to approve the March 9, 2015 notes. Motion passed 4-0-2 (Marcel and Britton abstained).

(Lisa Harris, John Gascon, Kyra Martinez and Charlie Bryan joined the meeting at the beginning of the next item)

The committee received a presentation from Rich Caplan on the Lawrence Real Estate Market and Growth Management.

The committee discussed the vision statement research received from Lisa Harris and a draft mission/vision statement from Bill Ackerly. The committee then discussed whether a draft mission/vision statement should be included with the Issue Action Report and decided that a full statement should be included in the Issue Action Report. The committee will bring comments and suggestions to the next steering committee meeting. Staff will take the work of the committee and work to find a creative writing resource to help them draft the mission/vision statement.

(Comm. Thellman left at the end of the above item)

The committee then discussed the revised timeline and schedule. The committee asked that they see a copy of the draft report to look at the format at their April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The committee agreed to hold the next meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> and have the only item on the agenda besides the approval of meeting notes is to move through the continuation of the issues discussion. The committee noted that that meeting may run longer than 6pm and they will likely adjust the timetable and schedule at that time.

Motioned by Harris and seconded by Britton to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned (8-0) at 5:50pm.

# *“A community that grows with you”*

## **Introduction**

The history of comprehensive planning in our area dates back almost a century since the adoption of Lawrence’s first general plan in 1926. Since that time other plans, such as the Guide Plan, Plan 95 and Horizon 2020 have helped set out the course for the growth of our region. In the years since Horizon 2020 was adopted, Douglas County and Lawrence have seen a variety of changes not only physically and socially, but also economically and culturally.

## **Mission**

Horizon 2020 is a comprehensive document that advances the proposition of Horizon 2020. It articulates the vision for the Unincorporated Area of Douglas County and the City of Lawrence and sets out the type of community we want to be. It provides goals, policies, and recommendations based on shared community values.

The primary mission of Lawrence and Douglas County is to provide basic services that protect public safety, strengthen public health and welfare, guide and enhance the constructed environment, promote economic vitality and contribute to overall quality of life.

## **Vision**

The vision for Lawrence and Douglas County is to be an inclusive and resilient community where all ages can live, work, grow, learn and play. Horizon 2020 focuses on a drive to create a community where long-term, fiscally responsible community planning is valued, creativity and innovation thrive, and community pride and confidence are contagious. Success will be measured by the health and vitality of our citizens and the sustainability of our regional economy.

- A growing population with diverse economic opportunities
- Sustainable quality development with abundant recreational opportunities
- A vibrant mix of agriculture, higher education, diverse neighborhoods, and a thriving downtown that form the foundation for the area’s unique identity
- An evolving region that preserves its rich heritage while attracting innovative people and business that embrace the future
- Safe and attractive pedestrian-friendly public spaces interconnected with intergenerational, affordable, neighborhoods and thriving mixed use activity centers, schools and parks
- Convenient transit service that provides a viable alternative to driving

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- A ~~Accommodate a~~ growing population with diverse economic opportunities
- S ~~Facilitate~~ sustainable quality development with abundant recreational opportunities
- A vibrant mix of agriculture, ~~Promote the agricultural industry, institutions of~~ higher education, diverse neighborhoods, and a thriving downtown ~~Lawrence~~ that forms the foundation for the ~~region’s area’s~~ unique identity
- An evolving region that preserves its rich heritage while attracting innovative people and business that embrace the future ~~Honor the region’s rich heritage while embracing the future~~
- S ~~Foster~~ safe and attractive pedestrian-friendly public spaces, interconnected with intergenerational, affordable, neighborhoods and ~~walkable, bikable and friendly neighborhoods connected to each other and to~~ thriving mixed use activity centers, schools and parks
- C ~~Support~~ convenient transit service that provides a viable alternative to driving  
~~Encourage diverse and affordable housing available throughout the area~~



# Comprehensive Plan Update



## Issue Action Report



City of Lawrence  
Douglas County  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



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# Executive Summary

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## Overview

A comprehensive plan is a document for the community, which states the visions, goals, and policies for the future growth and development of Douglas County and Lawrence. Since 1998, *Horizon 2020* has been the guiding document for the City of Lawrence and Unincorporated Douglas County. While there have been many physical, economic, and environmental changes that have occurred during this time, the plan has continued to evolve and adapt with the changing aspects of our community.

While *Horizon 2020* is relevant today, an update is necessary to ensure that the plan remains current with the changing environment of the community and the needs and desires of its citizens. The Comprehensive Plan Update/*Horizon 2020* Steering Committee (Steering Committee) was created by the Douglas Co. Commission and Lawrence City Commission with the primary focus to guide the process for amending *Horizon 2020*, the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County.

The Steering Committee is charged with overseeing and guiding the process, including public education and issue identification, prioritization of issues to submit to the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Governing Bodies of the City and County for review, and for reviewing the draft and final plan product. This report is the Steering Committee's prioritization of the principal issues that the community has identified to be addressed in the plan update.

## Process

The effort to identify and prioritize these issues began in the spring of 2014, with the commissioning of a county-wide, statistically valid survey by ETC. This was then followed by a county-wide series of nine Open House meetings, which also included a survey component to help refine the issues and priorities of those identified in the ETC survey. Two Public Forums were also held by the Steering Committee in November 2014 to ask residents what they felt should be the strongest priorities of all issues raised through the earlier input processes.

Through those public input processes, additional presentations, correspondence, discussion, and research, the Steering Committee has determined these principal priorities that need addressing for the comprehensive plan to continue to guide growth and development as the residents of Douglas County and Lawrence desire.

The Steering Committee has also developed mission and vision statements by which to guide development of the plan as follows:

### Mission / Vision Statement

#### **Mission**

Horizon 2020 is a comprehensive document that advances the proposition of Horizon 2020. It articulates the vision for the Unincorporated Area of Douglas County and the City of Lawrence and sets out the type of community we want to be. It provides goals, policies, and recommendations based on shared community values.

The primary mission of Lawrence and Douglas County is to provide basic services that protect public safety, strengthen public health and welfare, guide and enhance the constructed environment, promote economic vitality and contribute to overall quality of life.

#### **Vision**

The vision for Lawrence and Douglas County is to be an inclusive and resilient community where all ages can live, work, grow, learn and play. Horizon 2020 focuses on a drive to create a community where long-term, fiscally responsible community planning is valued, creativity and innovation thrive, and community pride and confidence are contagious. Success will be measured by the health and vitality of our citizens and the sustainability of our regional economy.

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## Issues

The existing *Horizon 2020* document provides clear and strong guidance on many of the issues that are priorities to the community today; however, several issues identified through the Steering Committee input process have little to no policy strength, or are in need of reviewing due to the community's changing needs and desires.

The following is a summary matrix of the identified issues of importance to the community along with the existing policy strength within *Horizon 2020*, with general summary comments to explain the existing policy within *Horizon 2020*. Detailed analysis of each issue below is continued on the following pages.

	Issue	Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength	Comment
1	Enhance Readability of Plan	Low	
2	Create Employment Opportunities	High	
3	Maintain a Strong & Stable Downtown	High	
4	Address Quality Housing for All Incomes	Low	
5	Manage the Future Lawrence Growth	Medium	
6	Protect Natural Resources	High	
7	Enhance Sidewalks/Trails/Walking Paths	High	
8	Plan For and Provide Arts & Cultural Amenities	Low	
9	Enhance Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety	High	
10	Appropriately Manage Size & Location of Retail Development	Medium	
11	Provide Opportunities for Small Neighborhood Retail	Medium	
12	Encourage Major In-Fill Redevelopment	Medium	
13	Consider Increasing Height/Density in Appropriate Locations	Low	
14	Maintain a Strong System of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	Medium	
15	Preserve Historic Buildings & Structures	Medium	
16	Maintain Agricultural Uses & Rural Character in Douglas County	Medium	
17	Encourage/Support Local Food System Development	Low	
18	Enhance the Transportation Network	High	
19	Create Quality Neighborhoods for All Ages	Low	

The issues in need of the greatest attention in the plan update include:

1. Enhance Readability of Plan
2. Address Quality Housing for All Incomes
3. Plan For & Provide Arts & Cultural Amenities
4. Consider Increasing Height/Density in Appropriate Locations
5. Encourage/Support Local Food System Development
6. Create Quality Neighborhoods for All Ages

## Issue 1: General Readability

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### Analysis & Discussion:

Throughout the public input phase the accessibility of the plan's information and readability of the document itself has been a highly requested change in the future product.

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Digital and paper format
- Executive summary that is stand-alone and part of document
- Easy to understand
- User functionality important
- Searchable in digital format (user-friendly)
- Layer maps in digital format (interactive mapping)
- Optimized for multiple devices
- Community understanding on how to use it
- Way to submit questions/input from digital version of final product
- History section that also explains how it has changed over time (not just a list of amendment dates, but include a description as well)
- Employ best technology to make it social media friendly)
- Have a section that lists out major process for updating the plan based on a schedule (3/5-year review or annual mini-review, 10 year major review)

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Low** || While the current document does contain a sizeable amount of information and detail, the depth and scale of the information make the document hard to read for residents, applicants, and for users unfamiliar with the plan. This detail and scale of information also make the document become dated quickly, and difficult to reconcile, and confusing for the intermittent reader.

#### Action Steps:

- Work towards the creation of a document that is digitally enabled and accessible.
- Creating of more interactive mapping capabilities.
- Prioritize readability for all users.

## Issue 2: Create Employment Opportunities

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### Analysis & Discussion:

Throughout the public input phase and during discussions of the Steering Committee, the makeup and health of the Downtown employment market has been a constant topic that arose at all stages and throughout the various public input events.

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Entrepreneurship
- Chamber's new strategic plan
- Creative jobs (shared equipment, collaborative)
- Home Occupations
- Infrastructure (fiber, incubator space, collaborative space, traditional infrastructure)
- Space for prototyping/limited manufacturing/production
- Zoning accommodations- allowing live/work, etc.
- Help local businesses grow (expansion/retention)
- Study commuting patterns and pursue incentives?
- Should we establish benchmark's?(maybe benchmarks without hard numbers, reference partner organizations)
- Shifting to a different economy ("Share Economy")
- Balance all different kinds of employment
- Jobs for everybody
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party subordinate plan references

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **High II** The prominence of Downtown Lawrence as a commercial and cultural commodity is strongly worked into *Horizon 2020* at present, especially its place as the dominant commercial and cultural center for Lawrence. However, *Horizon 2020* does not provide any strong guidance on the type and variety of employment that is sought today. The range of employment opportunities is limited to the Retail Trade and Accommodation & Food Service sectors.

Throughout the public input phase and during discussions of the Steering Committee, the makeup and health of the Downtown employment market has been a constant topic that arose at all stages and throughout the various public input events.

#### Action Steps:

- Identify and dedicate a funding source to help attract, develop, and retain employers to the Downtown area.

- Evaluate the creation of an incubator space for small, developing businesses within the Downtown area.
- Study various potential incentives to help promote Downtown Lawrence as a place of employment.

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## Issue 3: Maintain a Strong & Stable Downtown

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### Analysis & Discussion:

Since the community's initial investment in the enhancement in the 1980s, the stability of the existing environment and economy, and compatibility of new developments and changing demographics is a priority that was clear throughout the prioritization process. Studying and addressing this multi-faceted topic is an undertaking that should be conducted during the revision of the comprehensive plan.

### Steering Committee Discussion:

- More parking/garages
- Riverfront opportunities – Open Space v. More Developed? Ratio?
- Incorporate Burcham Park or 9<sup>th</sup> Street Arts or other destinations into downtown
- Expansion? Up or out? What is the plan?
- Retail: better and more opportunities
- Understand or track residential units downtown (encourage more living units, including affordable housing)
- Preserving downtown
- Monitor, but not regulate with use restrictions in order to maintain good mix (maintain flexibility in zoning code)
- Strong statement about what our downtown should be for future generations is needed. (mixed use, focus on main level retail/services, public square, urban core) Recognize high-levels of prior investment to get to point today
- Pay attention to adjacent neighborhoods
- Include and pay attention to numbered and side streets
- Unique and evolving
- Continued commitment to uniqueness

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **High II** For the City of Lawrence, the Downtown area has been the cultural heart of the community for many decades. The continued return on the decades of invest is still a major concern. This issue was identified throughout *Horizon 2020*, and its continued development and community role is still as vital today. Equally as important is how Downtown Lawrence should change and grow to continue to meet the community's needs and expectations for the future.



Action Steps:

- Continue Retail Market Study; possibly expand Downtown's study to include residentially used spaces to determine the households located within the area.

## Issue 4: Address Quality Housing for All Incomes

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### Analysis & Discussion:

One of the highest priorities registered in the surveys and throughout the county during the public input phase, the Steering Committee has determined that this is an issue that needs further research and analysis to best determine a future course of action.

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Define
- Study supply/demand
- Determination options
- Agreement that it should be part of comprehensive plan
- Include all stakeholders
- Rural Living?
- Balance in housing types: e.g. apartments v. single-family housing
- Effects of policies on the cost of housing
- Retirement needs
- Downtown living
- Greater variety of structure types (including accessory dwelling units), including in the rural areas
- Multi-generational housing (mother-in-law quarters)
- Rural housing issues
- Per capita v. household incomes

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Low II** While *Horizon 2020* does provide guidance on residential land use, it does not provide guidance on the economics or cost of housing for residents. With changes seen in both urban development, and with the volatile conditions in the economy, there has been a steady increase in the effect housing price has had on personal and the regional economy.

#### Action Steps:

- Direct staff to study affordable housing and determine what affordable means specifically in the Lawrence/Douglas County context.
- Study and develop a contextually-specific definition of affordable housing for both the City of Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County.
- Incorporate the findings of staff's analysis into the comprehensive plan to provide guidance on this issue.

## Issue 5: Managing the Future Lawrence Growth

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### Analysis & Discussion:

Throughout the community, the concern over the managing Lawrence's growth has been seen in numerous ways. From concerns about loss of prime soils, to infrastructure development and maintenance costs, to ensuring providing affordable housing, ensuring the growth of the urban areas has been a theme throughout the planning process. The means have varied; but throughout the public input process how Lawrence grows and how that is guided has been a key concern for both city and county residents.

### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Focusing on in-fill development to utilize existing neighborhood schools, balance the class sizes
- Change in neighborhood population over the decades (household demographics)
- Impact to older/existing neighborhood
- Fiscal constraints (infrastructure, etc.)
- Incentivizing in-fill development
- Recognize the nuances of farmlands, some have more value than others
- Natural resources
- Manage growth to meet our community values
- Define "Growth Management" better for future generations understanding of the plan

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Medium** || Horizon 2020 was adopted with a Growth Management chapter that establishes the Urban Growth Area, and the corresponding Service Zones. As Douglas County and Lawrence have grown in the 17 years since their adoption, the expectations on infrastructure, environmental considerations, and farmland needs have changed.

### Action Steps:

- Evaluate the existing Urban Growth Areas to fit the growth trends and expected infrastructure trends in the community.
- Continue further Sector/Area Planning efforts, and work to refine existing Sector/Area Plans to encourage uniformity in document design and mapping symbology.
- Study tax base implications and economic considerations for growth management strategy.

## Issue 6: Protect Natural Resources

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### Analysis & Discussion:

With the recent adoption of Chapter 16 within *Horizon 2020*, the overall opinion is this portion of the document is firm for continued future use, and should be reincorporated into the document. With accurate data and recent study of best management practices, the key for the future of this item will be applying the existing action steps that are outlined in the present document.

### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Residential v. Commercial acreage breakdowns
- Focus on larger areas of sensitive lands
- Append – County Resource Survey when available
- Wonderful – Keep it up
- Implement the Environment Chapter items
- Connectivity to resources and to the rivers
- Revise ECO2 language

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **High II** Chapter 16 of *Horizon 2020* was adopted into the existing comprehensive plan in 2011 and is detailed in both study and prescription for the action steps. Implementation of these action steps is viewed as the practical continuation of this chapter for future use.

### Action Steps:

- Implement the existing action steps and goals outlines within the Environment Chapter.

## Issue 7: Enhance Sidewalks/Trails/Walking Paths

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### Analysis & Discussion:

With numerous other efforts and advisory committees working on various aspects of this item, the study of these items at a finer detail by these committees will be weighted by these bodies; therefore, incorporations of their findings and documents into the new comprehensive plans is recommended.

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- List the current plans and committees that are addressing issues
- Revise/update trail master plan

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **High II** While *Horizon 2020* does contain some of these aspects throughout the document, but not in the potential details, in both findings and in recommendations. There is no need for the comprehensive plan duplicate efforts in input and analysis regarding the prescribed scope of these other advisory boards and committees.

#### Action Steps:

- Incorporate by reference the plans and documents that are published by the various advisory boards and committees on these aspects, including Transportation 2040 and successive versions.
- Work to further develop recreation paths as transportation corridors and means of movement.
- Encourage the development of a new Master Plan for Lawrence Parks & Recreation.



## Issue 8: Plan For and Provide Arts & Cultural Amenities

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### Analysis & Discussion:

Cited as one of the key qualities of Lawrence & Douglas County, the arts and culture play a major role in defining the character of our community. Arts & cultural amenities affect the community in numerous ways, including economic, quality of life, and in employment attraction. Ensuring that the comprehensive plan identifies and envisions the expansive role arts & cultural amenities play in our community is integral in its future cultivation and development. This can include historic preservation, heirloom local foods, and other amenities that are distinctly Douglas County in nature.

### Steering Committee Discussion:

- List current city plans and committees that are addressing issues
- Rural cultural issues and support
- Recognize & emphasize cultural arts district, and be an economic driver for all
- Help with language for the Cultural Arts Commission

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Low II** With an on-going cultural arts plan, the recommendation for this issue would be to incorporate the findings and plan to incorporate it by reference into the new comprehensive plan.

### Action Steps:

- Incorporate the Cultural Arts Committee plan when complete
- Incorporate the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Plan when complete
- Incorporate by reference the input and findings of the Cultural Arts Plan into the comprehensive plan.
- Direct staff to work in accordance with the Cultural Arts Commission to ensure the arts & cultural amenities is adequately fostered in the comprehensive plan.

## Issue 9: Enhance Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety

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### Analysis & Discussion:

The economic and planning emphasis towards a more multi-modal by design, and encouraging utilizing transportation means that extend beyond automobiles. Promoting the creation of safe bicycle and pedestrian spaces was highly encouraged throughout the public input, and has been a key item in the community for many previous years.

### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Sidewalk connectivity is important for many reasons.
- Matter of resources, competition for funding
- Recreation Paths as part of the Transportation Network
- Reflect on what we are already doing
- Sustainability
- Direct policies towards shared use, multi-modal options, with separation
- More to pedestrian transportation options – pervious surfaces, etc.
- Driverless car technology

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **High II** The strength for this particular issue is principally driven from *Horizon 2020*'s incorporation Transportation 2040 into the overall comprehensive plan document. Given the depth and detail at which transportation is reviewed and planned for in that document, the continued linking of these two documents should be continued. However, it could be supplemented with the findings and recommendations from the many advisory boards and committees related to this issue.

### Action Steps:

- Continue the strong link between Transportation 2040 and the comprehensive plan to ensure a strong link between transportation planning efforts and land use planning efforts.
- Update the Lawrence Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Incorporate the plans and recommendations from the advisory boards and committees to strengthen support for this issue.

## Issue 10: Appropriately Manage Size & Location of Retail Development

### **Analysis & Discussion:**

In many respects, this issue can be taken as a representation of many other items brought forward by the public throughout the input process. Utilizing the existing commercial/retail encourages the utilization of existing infrastructural investment; helps foster growth management, and can work to encourage utilization of neighborhood commercial spaces.

### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Incentivize utilization of existing retail space
- Be clear on the policy

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Medium** || Aspects of this issue can be seen throughout the *Horizon 2020* document and it does echo many of the issues that are still being cited today.

### Action Steps:

- Study incentives that would be desirable to encourage and foster redevelopment in existing commercial/retail areas with the City of Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County.
- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."

## Issue 11: Provide Opportunities for Small Neighborhood Retail

### Analysis & Discussion:

<Placeholder>

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Takes density
- Needs to be sensitive to neighbors
- Appropriately designed (with design policies)
- Where are the destination neighborhoods?
- Can walk and bike to it as well as drive.

*Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength:* **Medium II**

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."

## Issue 12: Encourage Major In-Fill Redevelopment

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### Analysis & Discussion:

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- <Placeholder>

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Medium II**

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."



## Issue 13: Consider Increasing Height/Density in Appropriate Locations

### Analysis & Discussion:

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- <Placeholder>

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Low II**

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."

## Issue 14: Maintain a Strong System of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

### Analysis & Discussion:

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- <Placeholder>

*Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength:* **Medium II**

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."

## Issue 15: Preserve Historic Buildings & Structures

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### Analysis & Discussion:

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- <Placeholder>

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Medium II**

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."

## Issue 16: Maintain Agricultural Uses & Rural Character in Douglas County

### Analysis & Discussion:

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- <Placeholder>

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Medium II**

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."

## Issue 17: Encourage/Support Local Food System Development

### Analysis & Discussion:

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- <Placeholder>

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Low II**

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."



## Issue 18: Enhance the Transportation Network

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### Analysis & Discussion:

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- <Placeholder>

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: High II

#### Action Steps:

- <Placeholder>
- Recommendation for language: "<TEXT>."

## Issue 19: Create Quality Neighborhoods for All Ages

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### Analysis & Discussion:

Widely considered to be one of the fundamental building blocks of the community, the neighborhood's role both in community's composition, as well as in the comprehensive planning is a vital one. The level of detail and study provided to the neighborhoods within *Horizon 2020* is not as well defined as the community desires at this time.

#### Steering Committee Discussion:

- Identity
- Multi-modal
- Commercial service amenities
- Integrated school design
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Intergenerational
- Access to parks
- Access to food, food choice
- Quality design, landscapes, street design, etc.
- Accommodate shifting demographics
- Incentivizing things we want neighborhood to provide (environmental protections, transit, etc.)
- Public spaces

Horizon 2020 Existing Policy Strength: **Low** || Neighborhoods play a fundamental role in the formation of the community, as well as in the function of the community as a whole. As people look more towards their neighborhoods to provide for their daily shopping and activities, focusing on the how they can become more universal in their design and their amenities will grow in importance in the coming years.

#### Action Steps:

- Study and define the aspects and details to best address the longer-term need and desires of neighborhoods in the larger community context.
- Incorporate neighborhood planning into the long-term work plan for Area/General Plans.
- Study and develop incentives for projects that implement best practices and that follow the neighborhood plans as adopted.

## Conclusions

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Next Steps:

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## Appendix

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Analysis & Discussion:

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT



### 1. Name

- a. No date in title, but needs some date in 1<sup>st</sup> sentence

### 2. General/Readability

- a. Digital and paper format
- b. executive summary that is stand-alone and part of document
- c. easy to understand
- d. user functionality important
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- g. optimized for multiple devices
- h. community understanding on how to use it
- i. way to submit questions/input from digital version of final product
- j. history section that also explains how it has changed over time (not just a list of amendment dates, but include a description as well)
- k. employ best technology to make it social media friendly)
- l. have a section that lists out major process for updating the plan based on a schedule (3/5-year review or annual mini-review, 10 year major review)

### 3. Create Downtown Employment Opportunities

- a. Entrepreneurship
- b. chamber's new strategic plan
- c. creative jobs (shared equipment, collaborative)
- d. Home Occupations
- e. infrastructure (fiber, incubator space, collaborative space, traditional infrastructure)
- f. Space for prototyping/limited manufacturing/production
- g. Zoning accommodations- allowing live/work, etc.
- h. help local businesses grow (expansion/retention)
- i. Study commuting patterns and pursue incentives?
- j. should we establish benchmark's?(maybe benchmarks without hard numbers, reference partner organizations)
- k. shifting to a different economy ("Share Economy")

- l. Balance all different kinds of employment
- m. jobs for everybody
- n. 3rd party subordinate plan references

#### **4. Downtown Stability**

- a. More parking/garages
- b. Riverfront opportunities – Open Space v. More Developed? Ratio?
- c. Incorporate Burcham Park or 9<sup>th</sup> Street Arts or other destinations into downtown
- d. Expansion? Up or out? What is the plan?
- e. Retail: better and more opportunities
- f. Understand or track residential units downtown (encourage more living units, including affordable housing)
- g. Preserving downtown
- h. Monitor, but not regulate with use restrictions in order to maintain good mix (maintain flexibility in zoning code)
- i. Strong statement about what our downtown should be for future generations is needed. (mixed use, focus on main level retail/services, public square, urban core) Recognize high-levels of prior investment to get to point today
- j. Pay attention to adjacent neighborhoods
- k. Include and pay attention to numbered and side streets
- l. Unique and evolving
- m. Continued commitment to uniqueness

#### **5. Quality Housing for All Incomes**

- a. Define
- b. Study supply/demand
- c. Determination options
- d. Agreement that it should be part of comprehensive plan
- e. Include all stakeholders
- f. Rural Living?
- g. Balance in housing types: e.g. apartments v. single-family housing
- h. Effects of policies on the cost of housing
- i. Retirement needs
- j. Downtown living

- k. Greater variety of structure types (including accessory dwelling units), including in the rural areas
- l. Multi-generational housing (mother-in-law quarters)
- m. Rural housing issues
- n. Per capita v. household incomes

## **6. Managing Future Lawrence Growth**

- a. Focusing on in-fill development to utilize existing neighborhood schools, balance the class sizes
- b. Change in neighborhood population over the decades (household demographics)
- c. Impact to older/existing neighborhood
- d. Fiscal constraints (infrastructure, etc.)
- e. Incentivizing in-fill development
- f. Recognize the nuances of farmlands, some have more value than others
- g. Natural resources
- h. Manage growth to meet our community values
- i. Define "Growth Management" better for future generations understanding of the plan

## **7. Better Protection of Natural Resources**

- a. Residential v. Commercial acreage breakdowns
- b. Focus on larger areas of sensitive lands
- c. Append – County Resource Survey when available
- d. Wonderful – Keep it up
- e. Implement the Environment Chapter items
- f. Connectivity to resources and to the rivers
- g. Revise ECO2 language

## **8. Sidewalks/Trails/Walking Paths**

- a. List the current plans and committees that are addressing issues
- b. Revise/update trail master plan

## **9. Arts & Cultural Amenities**

- a. List current City plans and committees that are addressing issues
- b. Rural cultural issues and support
- c. Recognize & emphasize cultural arts district, and be an economic driver for all

- d. Help with language for the Cultural Arts Commission

#### **10. Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety**

- a. Sidewalk connectivity is important for many reasons.
- b. Matter of resources, competition for funding
- c. Recreation Paths as part of the Transportation Network
- d. Reflect on what we are already doing
- e. Sustainability
- f. Direct policies towards shared use, multi-modal options, with separation
- g. More to pedestrian transportation options – pervious surfaces, etc.
- h. Driverless car technology

#### **11. Utilizing Existing Retail Space**

- a. Incentivize utilization of existing retail space
- b. Be clear on the policy

#### **12. Small Neighborhood Retail**

- a. Takes density
- b. Needs to be sensitive to neighbors
- c. Appropriately designed (with design policies)
- d. Where are the destination neighborhoods?
- e. Can walk and bike to it as well as drive.

#### **13. Major In-Fill Redevelopment**

#### **14. Increasing Height/Density**

#### **15. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

#### **16. Preserving Historic Buildings & Structures**

#### **17. Expansion of Downtown Retail**

#### **18. Maintaining Agricultural Uses in Douglas County**

#### **19. Floodplain Considerations**

#### **20. Maintaining Rural Character**

#### **21. Local Food Systems**

#### **22. Vehicular Transportation**

#### **23. Neighborhoods**

- a. Identity
- b. Multi-modal

- c. Commercial service amenities
- d. Integrated school design
- e. Safe Routes to Schools
- f. Intergenerational
- g. Access to parks
- h. Access to food, food choice
- i. Quality design, landscapes, street design, etc.
- j. Accommodate shifting demographics
- k. Incentivizing things we want neighborhood to provide (environmental protections, transit, etc.)
- l. Public spaces