



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Nicole Mardell, Senior Planner – Long Range
Will Groves, Planning Manager
DATE: September 28, 2022
SUBJECT: Deschutes County 2040 – Upcoming Open House Debriefing

Staff will brief the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on activities related to the Comprehensive Plan Update, including several upcoming opportunities for community engagement.

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Comprehensive Plan is Deschutes County’s policy document for guiding growth and development within the rural county over a 20-year planning period. The plan’s purpose is to provide a policy framework for zoning and land use regulations, demonstrate consistency with statewide goals, rules, and laws, and serve as a cohesive vision for future planning activities.

Comprehensive Plan Update – Phases



The Planning Commission (PC), as the County’s Citizen Involvement Committee, serves as the advisory body overseeing the project. The PC will advise on the following aspects of the process:

- Key County issues, goals, and vision
• Community engagement processes and activities
• Draft and revised Comprehensive Plan goals, policies, and implementation actions

The PC will ultimately provide a recommendation for adoption for the BOCC's consideration during the public hearing process in phase five.

II. COMPLETED AND IN PROGRESS ACTIVITIES

The following tasks in phase one have been completed.

- Kickoff meeting – establish project goals, challenges, and priorities
- Establish project schedules
- Review of background materials for a foundational understanding of conditions and trends
- Creation of a Community Engagement Plan
- Community Engagement Training for County planning staff
- Deschutes.org/2040 website creation and soft launch
- Creation of framework for PC role and meeting topics

The team just initiated phase two of the project, which includes the following activities:

- Initial Engagement Activities
 - County Fair outreach
 - Advertisement of project website
 - Development of "Meeting-in-a-Box" framework and materials to engage community stakeholders
 - In-person and Online Open Houses
 - Focus on visioning, key issues, and key themes
- Development of Background Summaries
 - Information on existing conditions and trends
- Review of Existing Policies
 - Identify existing policy gaps and outdated policy language
- Conduct programmed meetings with advisory body (PC)

Staff and the consultant are estimating completion of phase two in November 2022. Phase three addresses policy creation and refinement.

III. UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Several upcoming engagement opportunities are forthcoming later in October. These events will be advertised through press releases, social media, the project website, and through the project email list.

Community – Wide Open Houses

The project team is holding four in-person open houses across the county. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear about the project and break into small groups to discuss key issues, challenges and opportunities facing rural Deschutes County, and a vision for the future. Each meeting follows the same format; there is no need to attend all four meetings. Meeting information is found below.

- **Bend Open House – Deschutes County Service Center (1300 NW Wall Street, Bend)**
Barnes and Sawyer Room
Wednesday, October 19 5:30-7:30 pm
- **Sisters Open House – Sisters High School (1700 W McKinney Butte Rd, Sisters)**
Lecture Room
Thursday, October 20 4:00-6:00 pm
- **Sunriver Open House – Sunriver Homeowners Aquatic & Recreation Center (SHARC)**
57250 Overlook Road, Sunriver, Benham Hall
Monday, October 24 4:00-6:30 pm
- **Redmond Open House – Redmond City Hall (411 SW 9th St, Redmond)**
Rooms 207/208
Tuesday, October 25 6:00-8:00 pm

Online Open House Survey

In addition to the in-person events listed above, a self-guided online open house and survey will be available for those who prefer to attend remotely. The online open house and survey will be posted to the project website (www.deschutes.org/2040) beginning October 19, 2022 and will remain open through November 4, 2022.

Meeting-in-a-Box Events

In addition to the larger open house events, staff are also hosting informal, smaller scale meetings with stakeholder groups. Staff identified and is contacting approximately 90 groups including agencies, nonprofits, and social organizations. Interested groups or members of the public can also request a meeting with staff by sending an email to our project email address: deschutes2040@deschutes.org.

IV. NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to provide updates to the BOCC throughout the project.