



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Historic Landmarks Commission ("HLC")

FROM: Nicole Mardell, Senior Planner – Long Range
Will Groves, Planning Manager

DATE: October 31, 2022

SUBJECT: Deschutes County 2040 – Project Briefing

Staff will brief the HLC on activities related to the County's Comprehensive Plan Update ("Deschutes County 2040"), including an exercise to gather input from Commissioners.

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. The graphic below breaks down each phase of the process and its respective timing. The project team, consisting of Long Range Planning staff and the consultant, *MIG/APG*, recently completed the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan Update process. The second phase started last month.

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. KEY ISSUES ACTIVITY

Staff will be facilitating an activity with Commissioners during the meeting to identify key issues, challenges, and opportunities facing the County over the next 20 years. The attachment to this memo will be used to help guide the conversation.

IV. NEXT STEPS

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

WHAT CHANGES DO YOU HOPE TO SEE?

1. Write your thoughts in the circle
2. Connect them to relevant topic(s) by drawing a line to the icons on the circle

