



## **Richland County, Sidney, Fairview Growth Policy Planning Process**

To: Sidney City Council

Subject: Richland County, Sidney, Fairview Growth Policy

December 22, 2025

The Richland County, Sidney, and Fairview Growth Policy represents the culmination of nearly a year of collaborative effort from residents, stakeholders, and community leaders throughout Richland County with the Interstate Engineering planning team. The purpose of this memo is to provide the Sidney City Council with an overview of the planning process that was undertaken to develop this Growth Policy.

### **The Planning Process**

#### **Kickoff Meetings and Initial Research**

Interstate Engineering was contracted in early 2025 to create the Richland County, Sidney, and Fairview Growth Policy. The planning process began with a series of kickoff meetings involving key stakeholders, namely Richland County Commission, Sidney City Council, Fairview Town Council, and the Growth Policy Steering Committee. Then, the planning team conducted a comprehensive analysis of the existing conditions for all three jurisdictions.

#### **Public Engagement**

Throughout summer 2025, the Interstate Engineering planning team organized steering committee meetings, interviewed significant stakeholders, and surveyed the communities. The survey was conducted both online and at five in-person community events, including the Sidney KIWANIS Pie Social and the Sidney Sunrise Ambassador event. Over 1,000 residents -representing approximately 10% of Richland County's population-participated in the planning process, marking a successful public engagement effort. The top three priorities identified during public engagement for Sidney were as follows:

- Additional recreational opportunities
- Increased development of downtown
- Greater economic opportunities and job creation

#### **The Writing of the Plan**

Following the public engagement phase, the planning team focused on translating community input into a comprehensive plan. Resident priorities and stakeholder feedback were developed into growth areas and goals, each supported by actionable objectives to track implementation progress. Growth areas for Sidney included strategic planning and recreation. At this stage of the plan, the design of the document was finalized, maps were created, and pictures were gathered to ensure a visually engaging and more interactive plan.

#### **Conclusion of the Planning Process**

The Steering Committee recommended approval of the Richland County–Sidney–Fairview Growth Policy as presented to the Richland County Planning Board. Following that recommendation, the Planning Board received revision requests from both the City of Sidney and Richland County. After consideration, the Planning Board adopted a resolution recommending to the Richland County Commissioners that the Growth Policy be approved with limited revisions—specifically, revising the term “productive farmland” on page 70 to “productive agriculture and forestry land,” and adding Missouri River Country to all tourism-related sections.

Additionally, the Richland County Planning Board accepted all proposed revisions given by the City of Sidney. Other requested revisions were not incorporated.

The Town of Fairview approved the Richland County–Fairview–Sidney Growth Policy, contingent upon its approval by both the City of Sidney and Richland County at their regular meetings on January 14, 2026.