

Section 1: Introduction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTENT

A city's comprehensive city plan can be defined as a long-range planning tool that is intended to be used by City staff, decision-makers and citizens to direct the growth and physical development of a community for ten years, or an even longer period of time. It is a vision of what the community can become and is a long-range statement of public policy.

The primary objectives of a comprehensive city plan are to:

- Ensure efficient delivery of public services
- Coordinate public and private investment
- Minimize conflict between land uses
- Manage growth in an orderly manner
- Increase the cost-effectiveness of public investments
- Provide a rational and reasonable basis for making decisions about the community

As a vision of the City's future physical form, the Comprehensive City Plan sets forth a generalized pattern of land use areas and transportation corridors. It represents a long-range statement of public policy with respect to how the community should grow, develop and mature over time. It includes policies and recommendations relative to the development of various physical elements within the community such as transportation, land use, housing, parks and recreation, and urban design (e.g., development guidelines for the downtown area, etc.). It provides for the distribution and interrelationships of various land uses, as well as a basis for future development recommendations. These aspects of the Plan are supported by a set of goals and objectives drawn from the desire and aspirations of citizens and business leaders, and are intended to help the City create an attractive living and working environment.

1.2 PLAN CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

The Comprehensive City Plan is divided into ten major sections. Each section is designed to accomplish specific objectives within the planning process. Specifically, this Introduction Section is followed by a Goals and Objectives Section and eight Sections which address the many issues facing the city. Charts and Graphs are included when applicable to help explain various

concepts. Although each of the sections serves a separate and specific purpose, the various sections are all interrelated in some manner and are intended to collectively comprise the Comprehensive City Plan.