

UPCOMING DATES

Joint Planning Commission & City Council Meeting

November 22, 2010
Background Report Presentation

CONTACT INFO

Donna Bye- City Planner

P.O. Box 5006 - Mailing Address
1025 31st St. SE - Office Address
Minot, ND 58702

701-857-4100 donna.bye@minotnd.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. David Fuller- Minot State University
Dr. Looyesen- Minot Public Schools
Pastor Dan Voth- Our Savior Lutheran Church
Kevin Nelson- Minot Air Force Base
Wayne Whitty- Anderson Wade & Whitty
John MacMartin- Chamber of Commerce
Brad Haugeberg- SunPrairie Grain
John Kutch- Trinity Health
Joel Feist- Minot Builders Association
Chuck Barney- City Council
Scott Knudsvig- City Council
Rita Curl Langager- Planning Commission
Wallace Berning- Planning Commission
Ron Merritt- Minot Park District
John Coughlin- Developer
Rolly Ackerman- Developer Rep/Consultant
Phil Lowe- Lowes Garden Center
Bonny Kemper- Downtown Association
Travis Zabltney- Magic City Implement
Melissa Olson- Resident
Carolyn Moore- Resident

GETTING STARTED

The City of Minot is embarking on a process to update the Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a long-range vision, guide and design for the community's future. Updating the Comprehensive Plan is an important step in determining how the City desires to guide land use, plan for new growth and the rate of new growth. In addition, this plan will update supporting system plans including transportation, infrastructure and public facilities. The Comprehensive plan will be conducted over five phases: (1) Initiation and Analysis (2) Visioning and Goals/Policy Setting (3) Alternatives (4) Draft Plan Preparation (5) Final Plan Preparation and Council review and approval.

An integral part of the Comprehensive Plan process is developing background information to understand where the City is today in terms of demographics, development and issue identification. To fully understand Minot we also need to reach out to residents and business owners to recognize what they care about and what their vision is for Minot. This process was conducted over three public meetings on October 19th and 20th to conclude the first phase. Additional community wide meetings will be held at each of the remaining phases. Within this issue are a summary of the meetings and more importantly an inventory of the discussion held during each meeting.

A copy of the Background Report is available on the City's website.

COMMUNITY WIDE ISSUE AND VISIONING FORUM

The first community wide meeting was held on October 19, 2010 at the City Auditorium. This meeting was attended by over 90 residents sharing their ideas on a variety of topics. Using the top six topics identified by the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting early in August participants at the community wide meeting were asked to weigh in on the following: Growth and Development, Economy, Housing, Transportation, Aesthetics, and Community Facilities. Participants were asked to choose three of the six issues and in small groups discuss the issue, and provide action steps to help deal with issues identified. The following is a summary of discussions, issue identification and action steps discussed at the meeting:



Growth and Development

Issues:

- Infrastructure
- Taxation
- State impact funds
- City/County zoning
- Marketing & investment
- Workforce concerns
- Need paradigm shift
- Diversification of zoning
- Parks grow in tandem with city growth
- Identify if community is pro-growth
- Help make airmen and MSU feel part of community
- Address child care
- Affordability
- City and state incentive assistance
- Planning for stormwater runoff
- Develop more professional job opportunities
- Revitalize downtown and older housing
- Higher expectations for new businesses
- Man-made lakes created for runoff

How to do it:

- More arteries
 - North & South
 - Connecting the City
 - West side
- Funding issues
 - Bonds
 - Federal money
 - State money
 - Overpasses at RR crossings

Visioning Forum

Economy

Issues:

- Transportation-air, rail, Hwy 83 (interstate?)
- Expansion of retail-another mall?
- Capitalizing on Minot as an economic hub in the region
- Medical competition-another hospital?
- Safe living environment
- Canadian exchange/customer-attracting more
- Property tax-dropped
- Bring wages up to meet cost of living
- Wages-keeping up-competitive
- Getting skilled workers-reach out to other states/communities
- More community activities
- Extend 1 cent sales tax

How to do it:

- City or county minimum wage
- On the job training program
- Tax credit for hiring entry level workers
- Encourage free enterprise
- Encourage and retain youth-keep from moving
- Help from high school and University
- Magic fund-expand infrastructure
- Grants/funds needed-use for training
- Legislature-western oil counties unite
- Expansion of MSU
- Diversity economy
- Tourism enhancement
- Bonding- public/private partnership

Housing

Issues:

- Unaffordable housing
- Hotels used as permanent housing
- Sidewalks – safety issue
- All residential areas should be handicap accessible
- Low income housing
- Homeless center for higher numbers
- Increase size of affordable homes and apartments
- Management of temporary housing
- Keep seniors in their homes
- PUD feasibility
- Street width for residential-traffic control
- City bonding
- Stress created from affordability issue
 - Domestic violence
 - Increased evictions

How to do it:

- Plan to make it affordable
- Tax credits
- Housing trust fund
- Refine existing programs to meet needs (ND Housing Finance Agency)
- City bonding of infrastructure
- City to have plan to manage rental health
- Assistance with housing development using TIF
- Review financing available in area
- Allow homeowners age 65+ tax relief



Transportation

Issues:

- Overpass – need for more
- True cloverleaf
- 31st Ave and Hwy 83
- 13th St SE at Bypass
- Truck routes to 2-lane/4-lane (bypass to the south off 52E, 2E, and 2W)
- Shuttles to other cities
- City rail system
- Efficiency of traffic flow
- North Hill business/retail
- Broadway
- Quiet zones: trains
- Citywide bus system, statewide bus system
- Airport access/egress
- Parking for railroad depot



How to do it:

- How to plan for growth
- How to fund the projects
- Traffic circles (Hwy 83 and W bypass)
- Parking decks going up
- Recommend one-way streets
- New roads should have service roads (Bypasses)
- Traffic rules enforcement
 - Signal sequencing
 - Left turn lanes
- South/West Bypass beltway
 - Adjacent fitness trail
- ID high and low congestion points
- Vertical parking by MSU
- Be proactive in planning traffic flow
- Boundary expansion for airport
- Better lighting/ city entrances
- Trail system included in planning for growth
- Expand private sector Renaissance zone
- Use a portion of landfill fees
- Look at potential for growth and invest accordingly
- Project for 10 years, seek funding where available
- Good planning = good funding
- Shelf-ready planning
- Stick with numbered streets



Aesthetics

Issues:

- Road entrances need beautification
- Better landscaping
- Signage polices for businesses
- Better use of river fronts
- More green space in neighborhoods
- Signage to direct traffic and tourism
- Stricter requirements for dilapidated business buildings.
- Clean dead water loops
- Park size and park in SE Minot
 - Parks pool affordable for all
- Stronger landscaping ordinance
- Signage ordinance for all signs
- Park Board, City, Corp of Engineers
- Wreacking yard-enforcement
- Smell/odor-city lift stations
- Rendering plant
- Noise pollution
- Residential sidewalks

- River Loops need attention
- Usage of flowing river- paddle boat and canoe rental in Roosevelt Park
- Power lines are ugly in older parts of town
- Unique architecture
- Bike paths within the street
- Gravel pits at almost every entrance to Minot
- Empty parking lots and old buildings-zoning enforcement

How to do it:

- Side walks and bike paths required in new development
- Require screening-gravel pits and outdoor storage.
- Historic preservation ordinance/guidelines
- Work with ND DOT on entrances and upkeep of plantings
- State park-Coulee Park
- Neighborhood advisory boards

Community Facilities

Issues:

- New park facilities
- Medical care/hospital
- Multiple event centers
- Outdoor winter facilities
- Incorporate arts into facilities
- Signature facility
- Social service facility
- Parking and accessibility facilities
- New ordinance for mini-warehouses
- More water facilities for dog park
- School expansion
- Fine arts facility
- Winter recreation facilities
- Warm water aquatic facility
- Community bowling
- Public safety facility

How to do it:

- Combine Parks and Recreation
- Work with State Parks
- More access to funding
- Multi-use activities, staffing
- Include public art in parks
- Tap into businesses to sponsor facility and events
- Implement a park dedication ordinance
- Create master plan that includes parks, recreation, and the arts
- Improve event coordination
- Market Minot

BUSINESS FORUM

On October 20, 2010 a forum was held with business owners and representatives at the Holiday Inn. A brief presentation was given providing a snapshot of the Background Report before the business representatives were asked to participate in Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise as related to businesses and the business climate in Minot. Participants provided their responses, discussed them within their small group before sharing them with the whole group and voting on preferred responses. The results and vote tallies are as follows:

Strengths:

- Transportation-highways, railroad, air- 14
- Regional hub- 13
- Air Base- 11
- Location to energy/oil and Canada- 8
- Magic Fund- 6
- Diversity in economy- 6

Weaknesses:

- Infrastructure- 20
- Available housing- 16
- Too conservative-no risk taking- 11
- Affordable housing – 10
- Water supply – 5
- Qualified workforce- 4

Opportunities:

- Intermodal hub- 13
- Energy growth- 13
- Continuation of 1 cent sales tax- 13
- Medical facility expansion- 9
- Ag development- 8
- MSU program growth- 5

Threats:

- Financing future infrastructure- 25
- Not ready for explosive growth- 17
- No NAWS- 9
- EPA- if shut done fracking- 8
- Capacity of schools- 5
- Infrastructure growth to expand number of developers -4

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee met the afternoon of October 20, 2010 to receive an overview of the Background report and summary of input heard and provided at the Community Wide meeting and Business Forum. The Steering Committee received a full summary of everything recorded at the meetings. Using this input the committee was asked to start the process of developing goals (and eventually policy statements) to deal with these issues by choosing three topics, of their choice, and in half hour group discussions- record short, mid and

long-term action steps. Help identify what to do and how to do it. Consultants and staff will use the information from each of these meetings, and suggestions from the committee on short, mid and long-term action steps to create goals, policies and implementation steps in which the Comprehensive Plan will be developed. Results from the committee's efforts are listed on the following page:

Growth & Development

Short Term Action Steps:

- Keep pressure on Feds and Canada for NAWS water.
- Continue to work on city limit expansion
- Increase number of hotels
- Encourage county comprehensive plan development
- Short term bonding and what we can do to increase it
- Borrow money/partnership capabilities (75% to max)
- Taxation- 2 year new home \$75,000 tax exemption
- Trunk lines- public infrastructure.
- Magic fund- modify and extend
- Sales tax- 1 cent use for school expansion

Mid term action steps:

- Upgrade existing street system (not Broadway)
- Remove parking and increase roads to three lanes

- Dedicate money to replacing aging infrastructure
- Roadway transportation
- Zoning districts
- Highway improvements
- Land Use

Long term action steps:

- North/South throughways
- Make Broadway into six lanes
- Beltway on east Minot, north/west Minot
- New and larger Airport (room for expansion)
- Way to finance exp. Land
- Landfill expansion and relocation
- Oil Refinery

Economy

Short Term Action Steps:

- Foster a receptive/encouraging business environment for the energy sector (i.e. Energy Park)
- Continue TF21 efforts with regard to MAFB retention
- Develop value added AG projects
- Foster Canadian tourism
- Market MSU/schools outside of area

Mid term action steps:

- Maintain and develop infrastructure
- Continue and expand job creation through business development funding

Long term action steps:

- Continue mid term action steps
- Bring manufactures to Minot





2011 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Steering Committee Meeting

Community Facilities

Short Term Action Steps:

- Inventory facilities and programs/arts
- Identify needs
- Advertise existing programs/arts
- Extend/modify city sales tax for facilities
- Cooperation/Partnership between stakeholders
- Identify potential alternative funding sources other than sales taxes
- Identify locations for new facilities
- Grant writer
- Social service infrastructure-domestic violence safe house, homeless shelter
- Build consensus between public and private sectors
- Secure funding- private sector commitment; public vote
- Replace/remove/new use for facilities that are replaced- auditorium; ice under one roof; football, basketball, track
- Consolidate facilities

Mid term action steps:

- New elementary schools in growing areas
- One major outdoor event center
- One major indoor multi-purpose event center
- Expand Magic City Campus
- Expand medical facilities/options
- Build new hospital
- Construction of new facilities
- Pay for everything
- Second larger high school and expanded middle school(s)
- Second medical campus
- Leisure and recreational center and event center combo for families: small concerts, exercise, crafts (intergenerational)

Housing

Short Term Action Steps:

- Apartments- rentals
 - Affordable-immediate relief programs
- Convert Midwest Federal Building into first floor retail and remaining to long-stay apartments
- Public infrastructure must be in place before housing can be built
- Passage of housing trust fund-ND legislature
- Access and research existing housing funds
- Tax credits for builders (TIF)
- Shift Magic Fund to housing development infrastructure
- PUD and general development- educate developers
- Use Magic Fund to develop skilled labor force
- Develop a program to afford homes
- Expand use of Magic Fund to build skilled labor force-continuing process
- Continuing usage/manage of existing programs
- Residential revitalization zones
- Revisit housing issues
- Sanitary sewer system for NW Minot

Mid term action steps:

Long term action steps:

- Continue mid term action items
- Revisit housing issues

Transportation

Short Term Action Steps:

- Stop light synchronization- Broadway Downtown, 20th-Bypass
- Traffic cops during busy periods
- Left turn lanes on more corners/ intersections
- Increase light duration at direction
- Move 13th St. and 37th Ave. SE forward on the Capital Improvement Program
- Complete trail system – especially new construction; make off street connections
- More lights on Broadway south of 11th Ave.
- Update traffic study (so much new development and population)
- Better control at intersection by post office, hospital (four-way stop)

Mid term action steps:

- More left turn lights (short term solution?)
- More lights
- Traffic corridors on east and west of Broadway

- Widen 6th Street West
- Widen 3rd Street East
- SW beltway from Behms Truck stop to 37th Ave SW
- Off ramp southbound land on 83 Bypass at Hwy 2 and 52
- Overall interchange improvements- ramps, cloverleaf's
- Interchange improvement east end of Burdick and Hwy 2

Long term action steps:

- Beltways on east and west and north of Minot (complete loop)
- Plan wider roads
- Overpasses at 10th Street West and 6th Street East
- Remove all lights from Hwy 2





Aesthetics

Short Term Action Steps:

- Use zoning to address development along city entrances
- Ordinance for high intensity sign lighting
- Tougher zoning enforcement
- Stronger landscape ordinance
- Screening or storage- height six feet
- Hire enforcement officer
- Funding for maintenance, mowing, who does it?
- Inventory of problem areas
- Minot highlights/tourism info signs
- Architectural review committee
- City lift stations- need odor improvements
- Retrofit to clean up
- Junk car clean up
- Commercial signage ordinance- limit size and height
- Parks built in tandem with development
- Landscaping-tougher standards and enforcement
- Penalties
- Beautification Committee
- Downtown storefront enhancement grant
- Sculpture garden
- Wrecking yard ordinance-special use with conditions
- Rendering Plant

Mid term action steps:

- Fix dead river loops to circulate water and use as recreation opportunity in the parks
- Develop financing to improve landscape of city

Long term action steps:

- Enforce ordinance to accomplish objectives
- Refresh/renegotiate- river treaty
- Superfund sites-redevelop
- Promote Minot on city buses
- Licensed advertising on bus benches

Visioning

Visioning Question

At community meetings in October 2010, Minot residents were asked to “dream a little” about how they would like to see Minot in twenty years. The following statement is a summary of the comments gleaned from the 27 visions that were written at those meetings, written from the future in 2030.

Do You Believe in Magic? Minot in 2030

Minot is a beautiful and prosperous city – a great place to live and raise a family. Community members are open to new ideas, but still firmly believe in the good life and the American dream, loving their neighbors and celebrating their community, but welcoming diverse newcomers. Growth has been well planned with careful investments in infrastructure, allowing Minot to be a thriving city of many thousands more than in 2010. Transportation is easy with the improvements in the roadway system locally and fast connections to other cities in the region, as well as an efficient local transit service. Downtown Minot is a lively place, attracting visitors and residents to new businesses and attractions. Minot residents enjoy a school system that thrives from the investments made in new and remodeled buildings. There are facilities offering year round activities indoors and excellent medical care. Minot State University is a major attraction for educating the region. The city has incorporated the river, the coulees and other natural surroundings into a network of actively used walking trails and bike paths within a coordinated park system serving old and new neighborhoods. The city is clean and green – beautified and landscaped, from the minute one enters from any direction. Housing is available for all – from affordable to high end. The City has taken advantage of a diverse and stable economy to provide excellent services and stable tax rates for all Minot citizens. All in all, Minot has reclaimed the magic of its founders and carried it on to a new generation.

For more information and updates, check out the City's website at

www.minotnd.org

