



Community Development • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 342-1700

Date: March 5, 2021

To: Mayor Shubert and City Council

From: Greg Hannan, Community Development Director; Emily Fernandez, Management Analyst

CC: Jane Howington, City Manager; Thomas J. Sheridan, Asst City Manager; Jeff Knoblauch, Asst City Manager

Re: Comprehensive Plan Update Discussion

The staff would like to introduce the concept of commencing the Comprehensive Plan update. The Charter requires an update at least every 10 years, and the Plan may be updated earlier at Council's discretion. The last update process was from 2013-2016. It may be prudent to begin an update now for the following reasons:

- The opportunity to gather a wealth of community feedback that will help direct decisions the Community and Council currently face
- Foresight to design a plan that is more representative and holistic than the previous one
- Efficiency of consolidating several community survey topics (such as Phase II or the rec center)
- Learning more about how our residents have fared during the past year of unprecedented circumstances and how we can best support them
- Significant societal changes over the past year have impacted the possibilities of how Hudson's future will look (ex. changes in: technology, business needs, health consciousness, etc.)

The Comprehensive Plan is an opportunity for us to determine our community's desired outcomes in several pressing areas such as land use, technology, economic development, conservation, and more.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES: Considerations the City faces in the next 1-20 years that could be addressed in a Comprehensive Plan.

FINANCE

- Responding to remote work
- Anticipating jobs and skills shifts
- Aging & stagnant population
 - Risk of declining income tax base
 - Potentially less support for levies
 - Less disposable income – impacts merchants
 - Low housing turnover
 - Increase in seasonal residents

RESIDENTIAL

- Dated housing stock
 - Large, colonial styles, many 100 years or older
- Lack of diverse housing
 - Barriers to young families – impacts school enrollment
 - Insufficient housing to accommodate the local workforce – impacts business attraction & retention
 - Inability to “right-size”
- Achieving desired density
- Solutions to aging in place (ex. accessory dwelling units)

COMMERCIAL

- Limited existing space available
- Limited space to build new
- Responding to e-commerce
- Responding to demand for pickup & delivery options
- Providing business support beyond downtown
- Proactively recruiting desired industries

TECHNOLOGY/INNOVATION

- Equitable internet access
- Utilizing new technology solutions (ex. drones)
- Responsiveness to residents (ex. social media & chat-bots)
- Paperless solutions (ex. online utility payments)
- Sustainability or “green” technology solutions

PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Recreation Center
- Development of YDC acreage
- Broadband services
- Increased desire for outdoor amenities
- An evolving outlook for schools (ex. remote learning alternatives)

TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY

- Modernizing infrastructure (ex. adaptive signals)
- Updating and adding crosswalks
- Improving intersection safety

ENGAGING RESIDENTS: Potential topics for a community survey that could provide the base framework of the Comprehensive Plan.

A survey could include questions about topics such as:

- Trails and sidewalks (ex. Veteran's Trail)
- Downtown Plan (ex. main street organization, Building 7 site, Phase II)
- Innovation (ex. broadband to the home, electric or autonomous vehicles, smart city technologies)
- Residential development (ex. housing density, new housing)
- Sustainability (ex. energy efficiencies, green infrastructure)
- Senior services
- Facilities (ex. rec center, YDC)

...and more.