

Faribault County Comprehensive Plan Public Input Process

V 1 and V 2 Visioning Session Meeting Outcomes: Prioritized STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES and THREATS

May 17, 2013

Plan Area	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Housing	Availability of affordable housing	Aging housing stock	Develop new hsg: S.F., Condo's, townhomes	No inexpensive farmland left (for develop new hsg)
	Low crime rate	Absence of county-wide building code	Create programs that encourage housing rehab	Declining population
	Small town feel	Absence of upper-end housing	Reconstruction of existing housing	High cost to develop properties/devalutation new props
	(good) infrastructure serving housing	Shortage of rental units	Create housing, financing for 1st time homebuyers	Lack of profit potential in new res. Hsg. Development
	Housing programs	High cost of construction	Provide more affordable, developable land	
		Need planning for different types of housing		
Economic Development	Good agricultural base / opportunities	(lack of) training/ed. Skills for county's workforce	All communities work together for county-wide success	Pop. Decline / Future workforce/ need qualified workers
	Existence of county-wide EDA / FCDC	Tough to new businesses to get established	Expand value-added agriculture	State govt rules and regulations
	Strategic greographic location of county (highway access)	Vacant, aging buildings on Main Street	Take advantage of Ag. Economy success	Youth out-migration
	Availability of workforce / good workforce, work ethic	Lack of quality buildings	Get more (com) involvement from Ag. Economy	Failing (expensive to replace) infrastructure
	Low cost of living	Dealing with building codes	Take advantage of good transportation network	Lack of county promotion / 1-stop shopping for biz's
	Local EDAs	Lack of upper-end homes	Take advantage of good internet access	Distance to larger urban centers
Parks, Trails & Open Space		Promotion of existing strengths - billboards		High state taxes
	Variety of recreational activities available	Limited funding for new and existing parks	Utilize advertising, education to promote existing	Lack of indoor opportunities
	Plenty of swimming pools and fitness centers	Underutilization of rivers potential	Expand county-wide trail system	Lack of promotion of amenities
	Affordability of recreational activities	Absence of unified voice to promote recreational activities	(Expand) parks in natural areas (secluded)	Cost of keeping well-staffed parks
	Availability of land to expand recreational activities	Limited wildlife habitat	Take better advantage of the rivers	Cost of keeping, developing, maintaining parks
	Snowmobile trails	Lack of some types of recreational opportunities	Protect, promote wildlife	Bugs
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure			Build hockey arena	
	Good schools	Aging infrastructure	Take advantage of excellent Tier 1 broadband internet	Declining pop. / (capacity to pay for facility costs)
	Well covered hospital system/health network	Difficulty recruiting EMTS and firefighters	Take advantage of I-90 / 169 transportation	Aging infrastructure (ie. City streets)
	Good nursing homes	(State and Federal) Un-funded mandates	Continue county/city relationship	(Need for reform) Impact of un-funded mandates
	Access to good (health?) care	Limited access to internet/broadband	Maintain good number of existing facilities	(limited) access to state, fed. Funding sources
	Mutual Aid agreements (for emergency response?)	Geographic location for emergency response times	Maintain clinics, nursing homes, EMS, fire departments	Difficulty recruiting skilled workers for pub. Works
Transportation				Cost of infrastructure replacement
	Presence of Interstate and state highways	Lack of funding to properly maintain roads	Expand public/private transportation, transit	(Lack of access to) funding sources
	Good network of roads / mix of road types	Lack of biking/walking trails	Good 10-ton roads	MN DOT funding priorities need local input
	Low traffic volume	Inefficient running of county transit (Prairie Express)	Re-establish zoning districts / re-align uses	(Slow) Snow removal safety & econ. Dev. Issues
	Good road conditions / 10-ton road system	Issues with snow/winter safety/maintenance of state roads	Expand biking and walking trails	Impact of (replacement) costs on declining population
Land Use	Access to rail	Agriculture traffic / safety impact	(Take advantage of) Interstate close-by	(to) Do Nothing is a threat
	Access to GIS mapping	Issues of farmland availability and affordability	Update codes and ordinances	Legal, political environments / Fed. & State policies
	Strategic geographic location of county	Aging infrastructure	Protect vulnerable areas	Lack of land use diversification (high % farmed)
	Good balance between land uses and farmland base	Not enough wildlife habitat	Update zoning codes (to be more business-friendly)	lack of land available for other uses
	Fair zoning regulations	Vacant and abandoned buildings		Mandates
	knowledgeable citizen base of zoning regulations	Lack of land use diversity		Cost of available land
	Good variety of land types			
	Good trails system and wildlife management areas			

*NOTE: Each list is from highest priority (top) to lower priority, as per public input session participant's rankings.

Faribault County Comprehensive Plan Public Input Process

KS 1 Key Stakeholders Meeting Outcomes: / HOUSING / GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION STEPS

July 18, 2013

Plan Area	Goals	Objectives	Action Steps
HOUSING	I. Maintain condition of existing housing stock.	I.a: Maintain a stable tax base and provide opportunities for local contractors.	I.a.1: Provide incentives for local contractors to provide needed housing stock.
			I.a.2: Develop an infill program.
			I.a.3: Educate and insure contractors to provide quality craftsmanship.
		I.b: Make legislators and local officials more aware of the issues that we are facing.	I.b.1: Host an annual legislative forum for elected officials, local government officials, and the general
			I.b.2: Create an annual newsletter to be sent to elected officials highlighting the issues facing the county.
		I.c: Provide affordable diverse housing stock to attract new and keep current residents.	I.c.1: Actively solicit grant/loan programs related to housing rehabilitation and development. (Help communities and individuals access grant/loan programs related to housing rehabilitation and
			I.c.2: Conduct a county-wide housing study and share results with contractors.
			I.c.3: Develop a county-wide housing rehabilitation program that includes incentives for landlords.
			I.a.1: Work with the appropriate county office to track changes in the county's tax base and share the
	II. Increase availability of housing for all income levels.	II.a: Maintain existing tax base.	II.b.1: Develop and enforce minimum requirements for occupancy.
		II.b: Provide diversity in quality and affordability of housing stock.	II.b.2: Develop an infill program that allows for the construction of custom-built homes.
			II.b.3: Develop a program to assist landlords with Section 8 housing.
		II.c: Attract a diverse population while maintaining the charm of existing neighborhoods.	II.c.1: Encourage communities to develop aesthetic standards for neighborhoods.
			II.c.2: Market and assist prospective residents to apply for available housing incentives.
			II.c.3: Encourage the development of active neighborhood associations.
	III. Provide opportunities for contractors and developers to construct all types of new housing in a profitable manner.	III.a: Ensure that local businesses are able to continue operating and to grow their operations.	III.a.1: Develop incentive programs for energy efficiency, health and safety improvements, etc.
			III.a.2: Remove barriers/regulations. Work with local, state, and federal agencies to reduce, simplify, and/or eliminate regulations/barriers.
			III.a.3: Conduct a supply chain analysis to see what new businesses could benefit the existing business community.
		III.b: Ensure that developers are aware of opportunities within the county.	III.b.1: Conduct a county-wide housing study and share results with contractors.
	IV. Promote home ownership through development of various financing programs.	IV.a: Maintain/develop charm in the county.	IV.a.1: Analyze desire for a county-wide building code.
			IV.a.2: Hire a county-wide building inspector.
		IV.b: Ensure that everyone has access to adequate housing.	IV.b.1: Identify and educate residents about housing finance programs.
			IV.b.2: Achieve a better understanding of the county's demographics.

KS 1 Key Stakeholders Meeting Outcomes: / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION STEPS

July 18, 2013

Plan Area	Goals	Objectives	Action Steps
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	I. Enhance and improve the County's efforts to retain and grow the current workforce and to increase worker skills.	I.e.: Maintain a diverse workforce so that new and existing businesses can have access to a pool of skilled workers so that they can expand when necessary.	I.a.1: Implement an apprentice/internship program in high school curriculum with assistance from the business community.
		I.b: Maintain balance in demographics to provide stable and prosperous population for current residents to find careers/jobs and establish roots in the county.	I.a.2: Establish a county-wide business retention and expansion (BRE) program.
			I.b.1: Work closely with the educational system to host an annual forum to connect students with the business community.
			I.b.2: Partner with aging agencies such as MNRAAA to host an annual forum that matches the talents of our senior population with the needs of the business community.
			I.b.3: Host an annual meeting with all of the economic development entities within the county to ensure that they are cooperating on economic development and quality-of-life opportunities (focusing on the "sidewalks and coffee shops" idea of everything from infrastructure to amenities).
		I.c: Keep wages and employees in the county.	I.c.1: Encourage local units of government to partner with local and county EDAs to host an annual educational workshop on succession planning for the business community.
			I.c.2: Work with communities to access housing finance programs (i.e. first time home owners, transitional housing, housing rehabilitation, etc.).
	II. Increase efforts to assist building owners so that existing buildings can be maintained/updated and new buildings constructed and made available to existing and new/start-up businesses.	II.a: Promote a healthy business community where there is a diverse mix of well-maintained properties to serve	II.a.1: Work with communities to access grants and financing opportunities for businesses.
		II.b: Work with local units of government to ensure that federal/state regulations are met and land-use and zoning issues are addressed.	II.a.2: Develop a policy to address tax-forfeited properties prior to the existing 7-year time frame.
		II.c: To maintain a healthy tax base.	II.b.1: Establish a county-wide subcommittee with representation from all local units of government to review and enforce policies/regulations relating to land-use and zoning.
			II.c.1: Work with communities to access state/federal funds to finance repairs/improvements to infrastructure and critical facilities.
	III. Develop and expand on current marketing efforts with new promotional materials and one-stop shopping to attract new businesses and developers.	III.a: Make it more convenient for businesses and residents who move to the county.	II.c.2: Support the business community by considering the development of a downtown revitalization
			III.a.1: Partner with schools and businesses to develop a marketing plan for the county.
			III.a.2: Promote broadband as a tool for the business community and telecommuters.
		III.b: Ensure the economic development actions are more focused (agriculture).	III.a.3: Continue to be involved with networking opportunities.
		III.c: To promote and develop local tourism.	III.b.1: Redevelop the website to more efficiently promote the county and solicit feedback from residents.
			III.b.2: Design new promotional/marketing tools for economic development.
			III.c.1: Develop a tourism plan.
	IV. Maintain consistent population by focusing on services and opportunities for all age groups (youth retention and aging population).	IV.a: To provide services and quality-of-life that attracts and keeps all ages within the county.	III.c.2: Work with business community to organize an annual county tour.
		IV.b: To emphasize diversity, to capture talent of population (technology, nail salon, etc.).	IV.a.1: Identify and encourage the development of entertainment opportunities for all ages.
			IV.a.2: Maintain adequate infrastructure (i.e. revitalize the county transit system).
		IV.c: Ensure county remains desirable for community stability and a healthy tax base.	IV.b.1: Work with the business community to identify and recruit people with the needed talents and skills.
			IV.b.2: Survey residents to identify which types of businesses they would like to have within the county.
			IV.c.1: Work with the county EDA to ensure that the county is meeting the quality-of-life (i.e. infrastructure, housing, economic development).

KS 1 Key Stakeholders Meeting Outcomes: / PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE / GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION STEPS

July 18, 2013

Plan Area	Goals	Objectives	Action Steps
PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE	I. Ensure that the public is aware of the existing recreational opportunities within the county.	I.a: Greater use of existing facilities and opportunities.	I.a.1: Develop a marketing plan
			I.a.2: Develop a Welcome Packet for new (and existing) residents
			I.a.3: Create an inventory of existing recreational opportunities.
			I.a.4: Collaborate with higher education organizations to utilize student talent in website development.
		I.b: Users will be aware of and utilize existing facilities in a proper manner.	I.b.1: Provide educational materials (maps, brochures, etc.) at existing facilities.
			I.b.2: Host a community recreation day to engage members of the community in existing opportunities.
		I.c: County can generate revenue for future maintenance of existing facilities.	I.c.1: Research and apply for grant opportunities.
			I.c.2: Consider taxing recreational vehicles.
			I.c.3: Annually review usage fee structure and raise as appropriate.
	II. Promote the development of year-round recreational activities that cater to all ages.	II.a: Increase quality of life for existing and new residents to keep people living in the county.	II.a.1: Work with local Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) coordinators to develop recreational activities for al age groups througout the year
			II.a.2: Develop a parks and recreation advisory group to work with SHIP coordinators.
			II.a.3: Work with local community education initiatives to maintain existing and offer new recreational opportunities.
		II.b: Maintain year-round income generation for the county.	II.b.1: Initiate an annual review of the fee system for existing recreational opportunities.
			II.b.2: Initiate an annual review of recreational opportunities for possibility of instituting new usage fees.
		II.c: Promote a healthy and active population.	II.c.1: Work with local businesses and governments to develop health promotion programs for the workplace.
			II.c.2: Work with healthcare providers so that they are aware of all of the existing recreational opportunities.
			II.c.3: Initiate Healthy Living programs in the county to promote better health for all residents.
	III. Budget strategically to ensure that existing amenities are adequately funded so that they may continue to benefit residents.	III.a: Maintain existing facilities and opportunities.	III.a.1: Enlist volunteers to help with the upkeep and maintenance of county parks.
			III.a.2: Initiate an annual review of the fee system for existing recreational opportunities.
			III.a.3: Work with the local business community to help with the upkeep and maintenance of county parks.
		III.b: Identify potential funding opportunities to assist with the staffing and maintenance of existing recreational opportunities.	III.b.1: Participate with recreation groups to research and apply for grant opportunities.
			III.b.2: Encourage county staff to network at the local, state, and federal level to identify new funding opportunities.
		III.c: Take a proactive approach to identifying new and upcoming recreational opportunities.	III.c.1: Conduct an annual countywide survey of households and recreation groups.
			III.c.2: Work with DNR to stay abreast of national recreation trends.

KS 1 Key Stakeholders Meeting Outcomes: / **CRITICAL FACILITIES** / GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION STEPS

July 18, 2013

Plan Area	Goals	Objectives	Action Steps
CRITICAL FACILITIES	I. More funding will be made available for critical facilities and infrastructure maintenance and replacement.	I.a: Enhance and continue to provide excellent education facilities for all residents.	I.a.1: Work with other communities to realize cost-sharing and savings opportunities.
			I.a.2: Increase state lobbying efforts (e.g. sponsor a countywide legislative forum).
			I.a.3: Conduct a public relations campaign to raise public awareness of needs.
		I.b: Enhance and continue to provide excellent health care facilities (e.g. senior living, nursing homes, and hospitals) for all residents.	I.b.1: Work with other communities to realize cost-sharing and savings opportunities.
			I.b.2: Conduct a public relations campaign to raise public awareness of needs.
			I.b.3: Utilize radio and cable TV access to educate public.
		I.c: Enhance and continue to provide essential services facilities to all residents and municipalities by providing technical assistance to access financial resources for critical facilities and infrastructure.	I.c.1: Increase state lobbying efforts (e.g. sponsor a countywide legislative forum).
			I.c.2: Develop and review city and countywide capital improvement plans (CIP).
			I.c.3: Create a one-stop-shop for all grant opportunities (link on county website).
			I.c.4: Sponsor quarterly elected officials meeting.
			I.c.5: Use social media to share success stories.
		I.d: Plan for tax forfeited properties.	I.d.1: Identify ways to allow county to transfer properties to private ownership.
			I.d.2: Create an inventory of tax forfeited properties.
	II. Promote internet and broadband services that are available throughout the county.	II.a: Encourage development of all businesses.	II.a.1: Partner with Bevcomm for training for individuals interested in starting home-based businesses.
			II.a.2: Conduct a marketing campaign on webinars and teleconferencing.
		II.b: Promote telecommuting in the business community.	II.b.1: Create a business inventory of telecommuting capabilities.
			II.b.2: Utilize community education courses for education and training.
		II.c: Maximize capabilities for security and aging in place.	II.c.1: Coordinate with MNRAAA for marketing and education opportunities.
			II.c.2: Provide telecommuting and webinar facilities at public libraries, senior centers, and other public buildings.
	III. More funding will be made available to the public safety departments (EMTs, Fire Department, and Police Department).	III.a: Provide services essential for a high quality of life.	III.a.1: Train fire fighters as EMTs.
			III.a.2: Partner with cities to fund a countywide paramedic program.
			III.a.3: Partner with cities to fund a countywide Public Safety Department.

KS 1 Key Stakeholders Meeting Outcomes: / **TRANSPORTATION** / GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION STEPS

August 8, 2013

Plan Area	Goals	Objectives	Action Steps
TRANSPORTATION	I. Work with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that essential maintenance and repairs are funded.	I.a: Ensure equity in road funding for urban and rural road projects.	I.a.1: Develop a coalition of rural counties. I.a.2: Develop relationships with area legislators.
		I.b: All levels of roads are of high quality and equally maintained (urban/rural funding equity).	I.b.1: Develop material to educate the public on how the road funding process works. I.b.2: Work with the Minnesota Township Association on educational sessions for the public.
		I.c: So commuters and farm commodities can get to market safely.	I.c.1: Develop and make available to the public a road inventory with priority plow routes. I.c.2: Ensure appropriate signage is in place to alert drivers of road closures.
		I.d: Prevent roads from falling into disrepair.	I.d.1: Develop a coalition of rural counties to access funds for infrastructure repairs and improvements. I.d.2: Develop relationships with area legislators and professional associations (AMC, LMC, etc.) so that they are aware of county funding needs I.d.3: Work with MNDOT to expand local participation in the Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) process. I.d.4: Work with area legislators to ensure that the funding is distributed equitably (e.g. gasoline tax). I.d.5: Work with MNDOT, The Department of Public Safety, and the County Sheriff's Office to enforce weight restrictions on roads I.d.6: Continue to work with townships, cities, and MNDOT to ensure that new road construction is to higher standards. I.d.7: Lobby for additional compensation funds from MNDOT for road detour damage to other roads.
	II. Promote the development of an integrated (i.e. roads, rail, airports, trails, etc.) transportation network that provides opportunities for a variety of modes of transportation.	II.a: Ensure that all transportation infrastructure is developed to meet the needs of all users.	II.a.1: Work with other successful transit systems to enhance services to Faribault county residents. II.a.2: Adopt a complete streets policy.
			II.a.3: Work with MNDOT to ensure that all transportation modes are considered in the transportation planning process.
		II.b: Maintain infrastructure that provides for a high quality of life that keeps current residents and attracts new residents.	II.b.1: Develop a transportation advisory committee (TAC) made up of county residents to advise elected officials on transportation issues II.b.2: Establish a countywide trail system.
			II.c.1: Develop a transportation marketing plan. II.c.2: Develop an interactive website tool. II.c.3: Update the FCDC and county websites to make them more interactive.
		II.c: Promote all of the transportation resources of the county.	
	III. Address safety issues with the transportation system that may adversely impact the economic development of the county.	III.a: Communicate with residents and educate the public.	III.a.1: Work with local farm implement dealers to develop an education program to raise awareness of safety issues. III.a.2: Alert drivers of inclement weather by broadcasting alerts over the radio. III.a.3: Post information on dangerous road conditions on the county's website. Ensure information is updated regularly.
			III.b.1: Develop a consolidated road authority. III.b.2: Consider contracting with other entities for road maintenance and repairs.
	IV: Ensure better communication between all levels of government and the general public.	IV.a: To create a well-educated public that understands the funding structure, is aware of the transportation opportunities	IV.a.1: Develop an intergovernmental communication plan. IV.a.2: Develop a more interactive website that is updated regularly.

KS 1 Key Stakeholders Meeting Outcomes: / LAND USE / GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION STEPS

July 18, 2013

Plan Area	Goals	Objectives	Action Steps
LAND USE	I. Promote a balanced diversity in the use of land.	I.a: Ensure that current and future distribution of land use categories makes land attractive to families and businesses.	I.a.1: Revise all zoning ordinances for all development (city and county).
			I.a.2: Create regulations that allow for mixed use commercial and low density development.
			I.a.3: Create initiatives to restrict growth on rural farmlands.
	II. Protect vulnerable areas and the unique culture/historical identity of communities.	II.a: Maintain and enhance ties to the County's natural and historic assets.	II.a.1: Identify grants from state historic preservation office.
			II.a.2: Identify preservation areas (historic and natural) and implement initiatives to protect them.
			II.a.3: Educate residents on the importance of protecting the natural historic areas.
			II.a.4: Identify additional properties for possible inclusion in the National/State Historic Preservation register.
	III. Incorporate sustainability values into existing and new design, construction and renovation codes and ordinances.	III.a: Explore renewable energy options and establish guidelines for renewable energy projects.	III.a.1: Revise zoning guidelines to include renewable energy projects.
			III.a.2: Inventory electric utility grid for County to identify spots for renewable energy projects.
			III.a.3: Continue County's involvement in renewable energy projects.
		III.b: Explore best practices for building design and managing the built environment.	III.b.1: Conduct research on the impacts (pros and cons) of adopting the State Building Code.
			III.b.2: Support waste recycling and best practices for managing solid waste.
			III.b.3: Continue to enforce septic system compliance with County Ordinance and 12 year septic plan.
			III.b.4: Support disaster mitigation initiatives in the County (such as HSEM's All Hazard Mit. Planning).
	IV. Encourage infill/redevelopment opportunities to improve on the quality and use of infrastructure.	IV.a: Ensure that county and city infrastructure are optimized.	IV.a.1: Identify ways to eliminate blight areas.
			IV.a.2: Promote efforts to identify urban area boundaries for each community in the County.
			IV.a.3: Provide an interactive online tool that accesses each community's zoning criteria.
			IV.a.4: Develop a Capital Improvement Plan and Facilities Plan for all County Buildings and Sites.
		IV.b: Increase awareness of public and private financial opportunities available for infrastructure improvement initiatives.	IV.b.1: Provide an online tool for a one-stop shop access to financial sources.
			IV.b.2: Work with cities, townships and school districts in exploring funding options to provide accessible public facilities.