

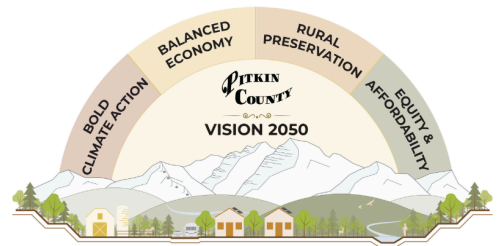
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: September 4, 2024

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Pitkin County Vision 2050 Workgroup

ISSUE STATEMENT: The purpose of this meeting is to officially kick off the Vision 2050 Workgroup as part of the County’s comprehensive plan update and welcome Caucus representatives that will be joining the Workgroup. The focus of this meeting will be for the Workgroup to review the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan, the Existing Conditions report, and provide feedback to staff and the team ahead of outreach to the broader community. Staff and the project team will also provide an update on additional subject-specific items moving forward as part of the effort to move the CGAC recommendations from concept to code and opportunities for Workgroup members to get involved.

BACKGROUND: The Pitkin County Vision 2050 is about establishing a shared vision for the future. This effort is grounded in the [CGAC Recommendations Report](#) which is a foundation for the values, policy direction, and specific code recommendations throughout this process. The first step in this process is to update the Comprehensive Plan in order to establish the policy direction to inform land use and building/energy code updates. For further background regarding the project and process please refer to the previous AIS memos, slide decks, and project tracker *attached*.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Pitkin County’s current Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Planning & Zoning Commission in 2003. This plan consists of common themes of the Caucus Master Plans adopted at the time, such as preservation of rural character and the natural environment. While many of the themes remain constant over the last 25 years, additional state requirements, changes in our community, the CGAC Final Recommendations Report and updated Caucus Master Plans necessitate a more substantial update. The Plan was amended in 2023 to incorporate the CGAC recommendations on house size. However, a broader update is necessary to establish the policy basis for the full suite of CGAC recommendations and capture community-wide planning efforts. The broad roadmap for this update is as follows:



Workgroup for the Comprehensive Plan

A best practice for comprehensive planning is to include a community steering group to provide feedback and guidance throughout the process. The Comprehensive Plan Workgroup will function as a community proxy at strategic points to provide feedback and guidance regarding development of the Comprehensive Plan update. The group will act as a community sounding board for staff, who will ultimately make recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan to P&Z. By State Statute P&Z is the decision making body responsible for reviewing the updated Comprehensive Plan for adoption. The Workgroup will convene every other month preceding the P&Z meeting with anticipated cadence to meet in early November, January, March, May, etc.

Existing Conditions as Community Baseline

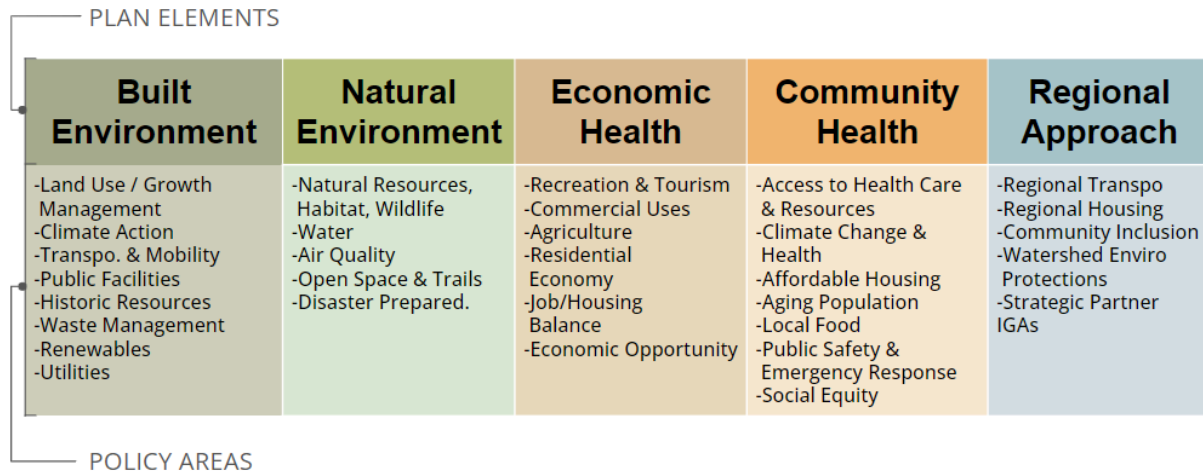
Establishing the existing conditions is an important first step in comprehensive planning processes. This provides a countywide context for the forthcoming policy discussions and helps to establish a foundational baseline for the community. It's important to ground the planning effort to recognize *where are we now* in order to progress into *where do we want to go?* The existing conditions exercise conducted over the summer includes a 1) county plan inventory; 2) existing conditions & future trends; and 3) community values survey.

- 1. *County plan inventory:*** To further establish a baseline, Long Range staff have identified and reviewed existing planning documents that address countywide topics. This includes planning documents generated and adopted by Pitkin County in addition to community partners. The intent is to understand, evaluate, and support high level policy direction from currently adopted plans into the Comprehensive Plan process. For example, the 2023 Pitkin County Wildfire Protection Plan will help to scope the policy direction related to disaster preparedness and emergency response.
- 2. *Existing Conditions:*** Led by the Long Range staff, the county plan inventory and existing conditions analysis provide an evaluation of Pitkin County's social, demographic, economic and geographic conditions and future projections to establish a strong qualitative and quantitative foundation to build upon. Key findings of the draft existing conditions report will be shared with the Workgroup during the September 4th meeting.
- 3. *Community values survey initial results:*** Launched on August 12, this survey aims to take the community's pulse on the values identified by Vision 2050. The survey asks community members to prioritize values, identify any missing values, and begin to envision an ideal 2050. This exercise is a high-level exercise to familiarize community members with the Vision 2050 values and engage our community in the vision of our future county. Initial results will be shared with the Workgroup during the September 4th meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Framework

The comprehensive plan update will consist of five plan elements: Built Environment, Natural Environment, Economic Health, Community Health, and Regional Approach. The respective policy

areas for each plan element have been developed to draw the CGAC recommendations forward into implementation, as well as account for additional community planning policy areas as identified in the county planning inventory and others required by the state.



KEY DISCUSSION ITEMS

The project team requests the Vision 2050 Workgroup review the following questions in advance of the discussion at the upcoming September 4 meeting:

- What aspects of our current conditions (a summary will be shared during the meeting) are most important to communicate to the broader community?
 - What stands out or surprises you?
 - And why?
- What tensions do you identify in the Comprehensive Plan’s five plan elements?
 - What big ideas are at play in these tensions?
 - How do we balance these tensions and inherent tradeoffs?
 - How can the comprehensive plan process best address those tension areas?
 - What does success look like?

VISION 2050 - NEXT STEPS: While updating the Comprehensive Plan is the first step in the process, other efforts are underway to move forward Vision 2050. This includes:

1. **Focus Groups:** Focus groups are a series of meetings to gather together subject matter experts to discuss specific critical topics . Workgroup members are also invited to attend.
 - a. Initial Timeline – all meetings will be virtual and conducted over the lunch hour.
 - i. September 18: Energy Code Update | Pitkin County Library Dunaway Room
 - ii. Anticipated mid-October: Floor Area Ratio (FAR) / Net Parcel
 - iii. Anticipated mid-November: Transferable Development Rights (TDR) / Growth Management Quota System (GMQS)

2. **Data Studies & Research:** This process intends to be data-informed (not data-driven!) by leveraging research studies to help inform decision-making.
 - a. Studies Underway:
 - i. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) / Greenhouse Gases (GHG)
 - ii. Housing and Employment Generation Rates
 - b. Timeline: September 2024 - December 2025
 - c. Other anticipated studies include:
 - i. Transportation Intensity
 - ii. Economic Intensity
 - iii. Climate Intensity

3. **Public Project Launch & Community Education:** The public launch of Vision 2050 started this summer to educate the broader community on the CGAC work to-date and process to to update the comprehensive plan (i.e., Vision 2050). The project team will be asking members of the Workgroup to support community outreach to help generate awareness of the vision and values that constitute the foundation of the CGAC recommendations and Vision 2050.
 - a. Active community outreach efforts:
 - i. Digital: [Project website](#), [Vision 2050 newsletter](#), social media
 - ii. Open Surveys:
 1. [Community survey](#) (open through end of September)
 2. [Energy Code Survey](#)
 - iii. Newspaper ads (Aspen Daily News print and digital)
 - iv. Pop-ups: Pitkin County Offices (8/13), Pitkin County Library (8/21)
 - v. Canvassing: Aspen, Snowmass Village, Old Snowmass, Woody Creek, Basalt, Redstone
 - b. Community-Wide Vision 2050 Comprehensive Plan Open House:
Anticipated October 30

Attachments

- [P&Z July Update and Workgroup](#)
- [June Workgroup Presentation](#)
- [Vision 2050 Project Tracker](#)