

Introduction

Purpose

Minnesota law requires cities to develop long-range Comprehensive Plans every 10 years, which serve as a guideline for future planning. The Metropolitan Council guides this planning process in the Twin Cities region and reviews municipal plans. The City is required to include nine components. In addition, the City is required to weave components of resiliency into each chapter. Due to the construction of a new Civic Campus, Fridley has decided to continue our tradition of including a Public Facilities section in the Plan as well.



1. Land Use



4. Parks and Trails



8. Economic Competitiveness



2. Housing



5. Water Supply



9. Critical Area



3. Transportation

6. Local Water

7. Wastewater



10. Public Facilities

How the Plan will be used

This Plan will be used to guide policy decisions, budgets, and to provide public information about the City's long-range plans.



Fridley Welcome Sign

Process

It was decided during the 2015 budgeting process that City staff would create the 2040 Comprehensive Plan internally and would not hire a consultant. The City had prepared the 2030 Comprehensive Plan internally and preferred this process as the same people responsible for implementing the Plan would be the ones to facilitate implementation. To begin the process, in 2016, City staff committees for each chapter topic were established with a team lead designated for each committee. City staff began preparing data for the compilation of this Plan in 2016.

In 2017, staff began gathering input from the public on various topics and policies to help guide future action steps for the 2040 Plan. Instead of holding a public meeting, City staff took a new approach to community engagement. It was decided to survey people's opinions at places where they were already gathering. One of these exercises occurred at the Home and Garden Show on Feb 4, 2017, where a board was set up that asked people: *What does Fridley have?* and *What does Fridley need?* This exercise helped guide topics and questions for future public engagement efforts.



Framing Fridley Visioning Board

In an effort to communicate various updates to the public, City staff held a town hall meeting at City Hall on Saturday, May 20, 2017. While the main focus of the meeting was to update the public on plans for a new civic campus, part of the meeting time was used to obtain public input on three separate topics:

1. Transportation Safety Concerns
2. Priority Redevelopment Areas
3. Access to Parkland on the Mississippi River



Fridley Town Hall Meeting

There were nearly 100 people at the town hall meeting, so it provided staff a strong basis for formulating survey questions to be hosted on the City's website, and easily accessed from a smart phone. The staff committees helped develop survey questions, which were broken into three general topics:

- General
- Parks
- Streets

A small business card was distributed to residents providing the web address to the survey. On June 16, 2017, City staff were able to test the developed survey with attendees at a Safe Routes to Schools public engagement event on proposed changes to 7th Street. Participants were given the card and asked to complete the online survey. The following morning, nearly 100 cards were handed out to people waiting at the curb for the annual 49ers Day Parade to start. It was a great opportunity to request their participation and to personally ask people for their involvement in long-range planning for the City.

During one rush hour morning on a Thursday in August 2017, two staff members handed out cards to commuters using the three most heavily used bus stops on University Avenue. Community Development staff

also handed out cards at block parties on Night to Unite on August 1, 2017. About 900 cards were given to block captains in their packet of information to give to party goers. Staff made an effort to encourage people to use the web address and complete the survey later, at their leisure. The Communications Coordinator also sent out an email burst with the web address to subscribers, and responses poured in. These efforts resulted in 97 responses. While the online survey was not a scientific survey, it provided valuable insight into people's views as there were many open-ended questions answered from the privacy of their own home. Participants could choose to answer questions from all of the topics or just one or two of the topics. Questions could also be skipped. The results of the survey, which ended August 31, 2017, are in Appendix A.



Main Street Pedestrian Bridge

Goals

In the summer of 2013, the Fridley City Council initiated a strategic planning process to set a vision statement to address the long term needs of the City. The Council and the department managers participated in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis to set goals and develop the following vision statement:

**We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant,
friendly and stable home for families and
businesses.**

Adopted January 27, 2014

This vision statement now serves as the basis for the goals in Fridley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Each subsequent chapter of this Plan addresses how these goals and objectives can be met through policies and action steps.

Goal #1: Provide a *Safe* environment for residents and businesses

Objectives

- Provide for public safety through education and enforcement of City Code and State law
- Maintain a public safety force to respond to the needs of the community
- Plan for safe transportation routes for all modes of transportation
- Prepare for disaster response through emergency planning

Goal #2: Maintain Fridley as a *Vibrant* community in the Twin Cities

Objectives

- Ensure that City Code regulates adjacent uses to provide for compatible growth without being overly restrictive
- Encourage redevelopment and reuse of underutilized property
- Study what is working well in other Metro Area communities and copy their successful measures
- Pursue partnerships with other units of government and sources of funding that can finance needed improvements in the City
- Continue to be a leader in City services that balance the demands of the public and City finances
- Establish policies that support Fridley's commitment to the environmental health of our community and the region as a whole

Goal #3: Continue to be known as *Friendly* Fridley in the Twin Cities

Objectives

- Maintain equitable City services in a friendly, driven, responsive manner
- Continue to establish public/private/non-profit partnerships and events that bring diverse groups together
- Celebrate the positive aspects of the City of Fridley

Goal #4: Provide a *Stable* environment in which families and businesses can thrive

Objectives

- Maintain sustainable policies and appropriate code restrictions that position Fridley in the competitive service industry
- Address diverse housing and business needs that support neighborhood stability
- Protect Fridley's natural resources that are key to making Fridley a desirable place to live and work

Acknowledgements

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