



2035 Comprehensive Plan

Stakeholder Visioning
and
Community Input Sessions

Spring 2014

Overview

In September 2013 the Vermillion Planning Commission began the process to update Vermillion's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a significant land use policy document that creates a roadmap for the future development and growth of Vermillion. Up to this point, the Planning Commission has been going through the various sections of the current plan, developing the overall goals and framework for the update to take place.

In any public planning process, it is essential to gather the input of community investors, or stakeholders – citizens, businesses, public and private organizations, service clubs and employers. These groups and individuals have all made an investment in Vermillion. Encouraging investment is the key to sound community planning. The Planning Commission will be holding a series of meetings in the coming weeks and we invite you, the stakeholders, to be a part of the discussion.

Focusing primarily on land uses, the Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that provides a long-term vision for the community and the steps that need to be taken in order to accomplish that vision. The plan strives to strengthen economic viability and encourage growth in a thoughtful and planned manner. The plan provides a realistic view of where the community is, where it wants to be and a guide for achieving the community vision.

The Comprehensive Plan serves two primary purposes:

- 1) Community Building - The Comprehensive Plan shapes the community's vision into a framework that guides policy decisions and implements the City's goals.
- 2) Legal – South Dakota law grants Cities the power to adopt zoning and subdivision regulations to regulate land uses. Comprehensive Planning sets the overall mission of planning and community development to provide a sound and logical basis for growth management.

The City of Vermillion has recognized the need to develop a completely revised plan for 2035. The direction of the 2035 plan varies greatly from the 2000-2020 plan in many ways. The 2000-2020 plan focused on infrastructure and capital improvements with an emphasis on development within the City limits. The goals have been largely completed and it is time for the vision of the community to move beyond preparing for growth, into creating opportunities for growth and community development. Significant improvements have been made to the transportation network and utility system that have increased the City's capacity to serve residents, businesses and industries now and in the future. The City has also annexed land to better position itself for residential, commercial and industrial growth. Continuation of these practices along with a plan to manage growth will ensure the City's ability to serve current and future residents.

Comprehensive planning is an evolving process that must remain flexible, acknowledging that the needs of a community change over time. A comprehensive community plan must be reviewed regularly to reinforce the community's vision and ensure implementation, which is the primary determining measure of a plan's success. An adopted comprehensive plan is a key tool used by the City Council, Planning Commission, City staff and other policy bodies to make decisions and land use, facility needs, amenities, public services, economic development and many other priorities requiring public and private investment.

Schedule

The Vermillion Planning Commission will be holding a series of meetings to gather input from citizens, businesses and other stakeholders in the community. In order to make the sessions as productive as possible, each meeting will focus a particular group to gather input on the future of Vermillion's development and growth. As these are public meetings, all citizens are invited to participate in the process and discussions.

March 24th, 2014

Focus: Landowners, real estate agencies, rental property owners/managers and the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Vermillion City Hall
City Council Chambers
25 Center Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

April 14th, 2014

Focus: Public agencies – Clay County, Vermillion School District, University of South Dakota Administration, University of South Dakota Students and Faculty

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: USD Campus (TBD)

April 28th, 2014

Focus: Local Businesses, Major Employers, Financial Institutions, Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Vermillion City Hall
City Council Chambers
25 Center Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

May 12th, 2014

Focus: Service Clubs, Churches, Local Non-Profit Organizations

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Vermillion City Hall
City Council Chambers
25 Center Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Format & Questions

The intent of the meetings is to gather as much community input as possible. To that end, the meetings will be casual with the opportunity for anyone to speak on the topic of land use and planning for Vermillion. The Planning Commission has provided the following questions to serve as a guide for the discussions.

- *What needs to be considered in preparing for the future of Vermillion?*
- *What are the key questions or issues that you believe are facing Vermillion in general regarding the future of development?*
- *What are the unique characteristics in Vermillion that need to be understood? (social, political, economic, environmental etc.) How could the Comprehensive Plan address these issue areas more effectively?*
- *Do you have any specific expectations about this update to the Comprehensive Plan, (i.e., any specific policy or policies you think should/should not be affected?)*
- *What type of growth would you like see for Vermillion in the future?*
- *What type of projects would you like to see Vermillion undertake with development?*
- *Does your department, board, committee, organization or company have any current or anticipated needs for expansion, improvement, or change?*
- *Do any current conditions, development policies/regulations in Vermillion impact the ability of your department, board, committee, organization or company to effectively meet your/its mission/responsibilities?*
- *What land use and development changes in Vermillion would provide a clear benefit to your department, board, committee, organization or company?*
- *What do you believe are Vermillion's principal challenges with respect to growth and development?*

All meetings are open to the public, so anyone with an interest in community planning is encouraged to attend.