

Sun Prairie Comprehensive Plan 2019-2039

Public Meeting Presentation of
Major Policy Priorities



A Comprehensive Plan is a guide for the City's physical, social, and economic development.

The Comprehensive Plan offers a vision for the future of the City over the next 20 years, and helps City staff and City officials make budget and land use decisions.

Topics

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Economic Development
5. Utilities & Community Facilities
6. Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources
7. Intergovernmental Cooperation
8. Land Use
9. Implementation

Content

1. Stakeholder Feedback from many sources
2. Data analysis (e.g. census and City records)
3. Goals, Policies and Actions
4. Maps of facilities and land uses
5. Strategies to implement the plan

Planning Process

Planning Process

April 2018

Today

July 23

Sun Prairie Comprehensive Plan

Project Schedule (updated 2/20/19)

MEETING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT CALENDAR

- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

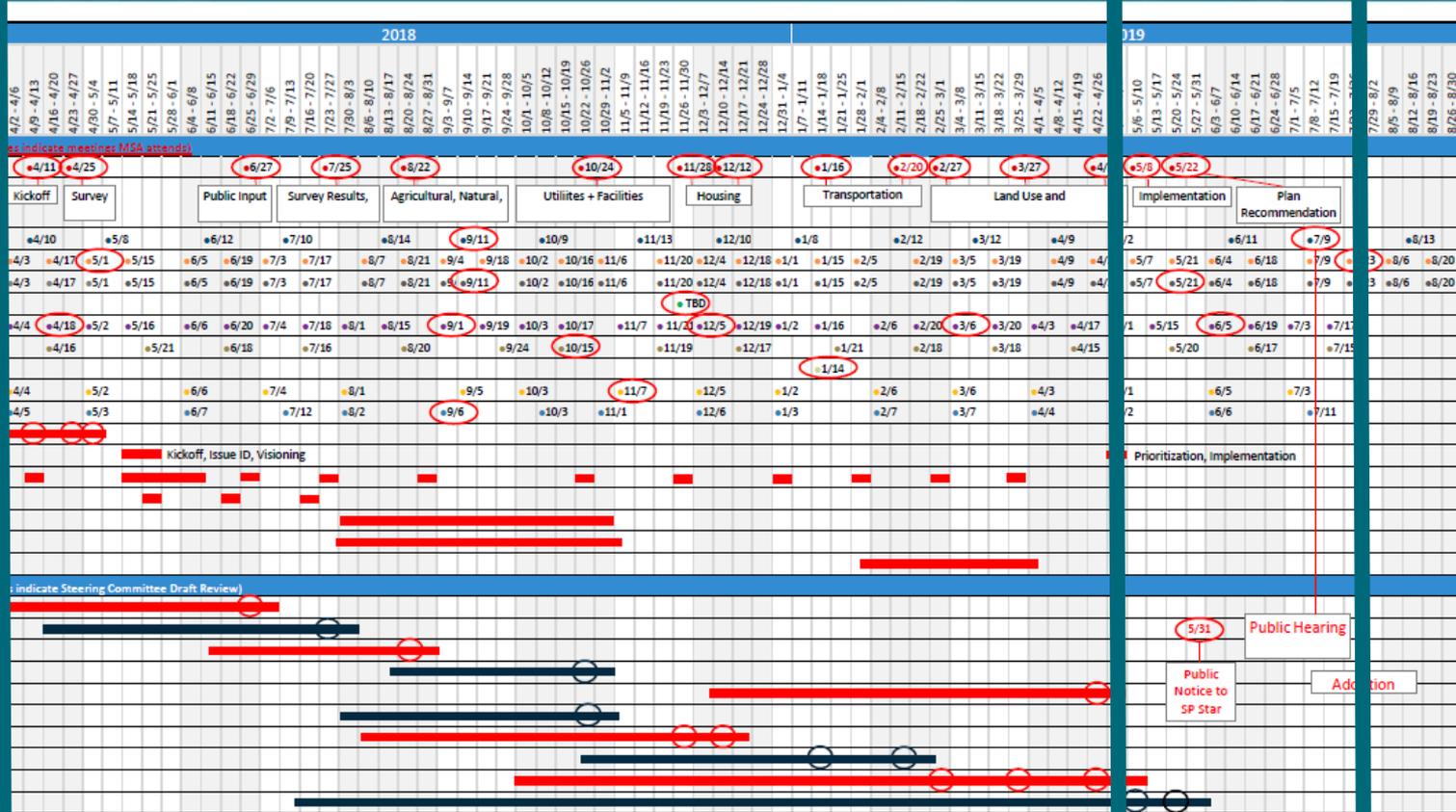
- Plan Commission
- City Council
- Committee of the Whole
- Community Development Authority
- Technical Review Committee
- Utilities Commission
- Transit Commission
- Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission
- Youth and Family Services Commission

Public Participation Plan Refinement

- Neighborhood Forums (3 per round)
- Online Surveys
- Farmers Market Idea Chalkboard
- Community Organization Visits
- Interviews and Focus Groups
- Municipal and Regional Partners

PLAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

- Task 1 Existing Plan Review and Summary
- Task 2 Issues and Opportunities
- Task 3 Natural, Cultural, and Agricultural Resources
- Task 4 Utilities, Facilities and Services
- Task 5 Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Task 6 Economic Development
- Task 7 Housing
- Task 8 Transportation
- Task 9 Land Use and Community Design
- Task 10 Implementation



Planning Process

- **15 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meetings** (19 members)
 - 2nd/4th Wednesdays April 2018 – May 2019
- **Neighborhood Forums**
 - Round 1: May 2018
 - Round 2: April 30, May 1, May 4 2019
- **Community Survey** (2,000+ responses)
 - Available May - June 2018
(results available on City's 2018-2019 Comp Plan Update page)
- **Focus Groups and Committee Meetings** (150+ local leaders)
- **Plan Commission/Committee of the Whole check-ins**
- **Plan Commission Review/Public Hearing**
 - July 9, 2019
- **City Council Approval Meeting**
 - July 23, 2019 (tentative)



DRAFT Community Vision Statement

DRAFT Community Vision Statement

“The City of Sun Prairie seeks balanced growth, safe and healthy neighborhoods, and opportunity for all residents to pursue their dreams and live full lives.”

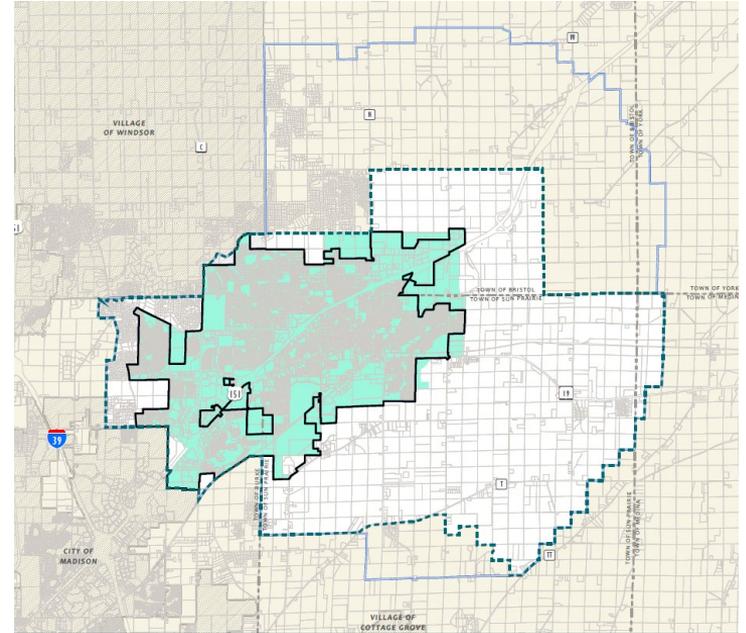
Major Issues and Opportunities

and the Plan response to each

Major Issues and Opportunities

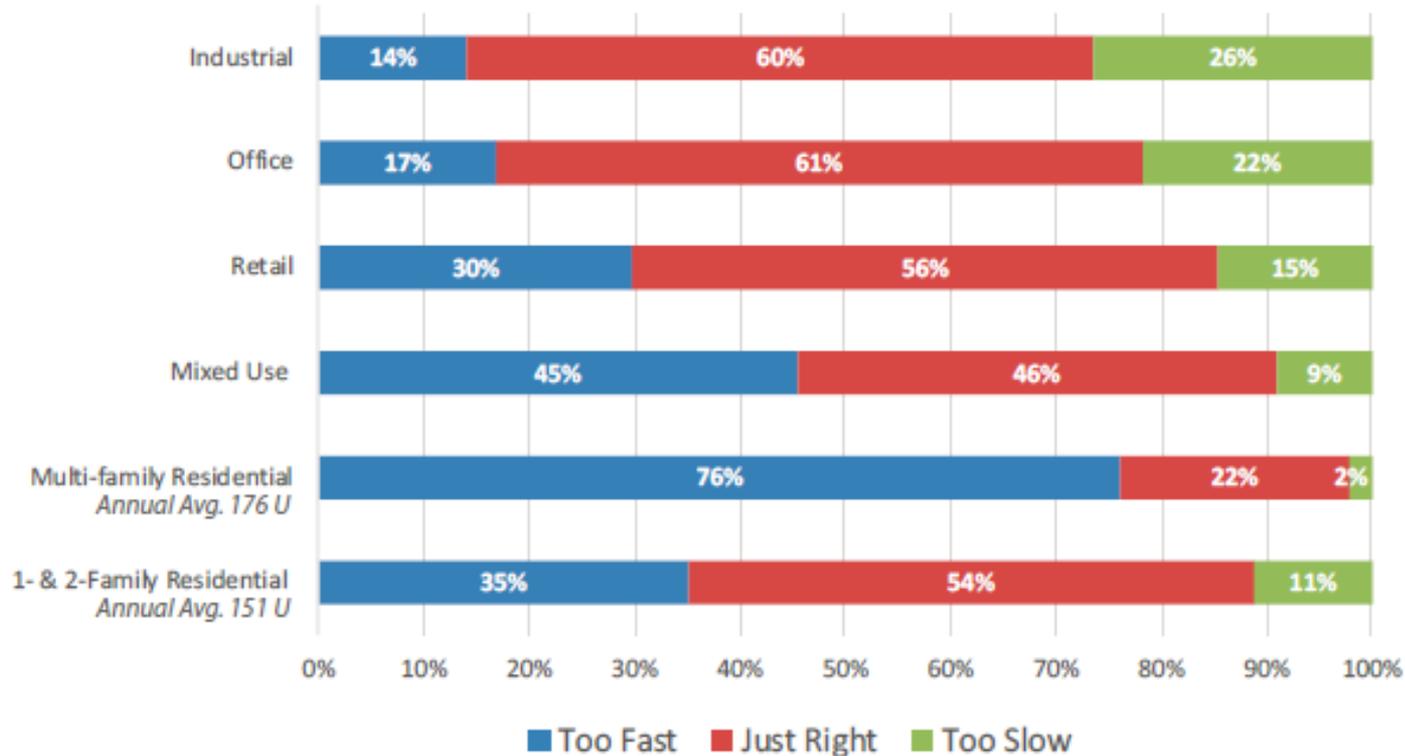
COMMUNITY GROWTH AND IDENTITY

Sun Prairie has 32,000 residents today, headed to 40,000 in the next 10 years due to regional growth. Most residents favor growth, but there are concerns about loss of character and the neighborhood impacts of larger, multi-unit housing projects.



Major Issues and Opportunities

Q26* Do you believe the pace of development over the last 5 years in Sun Prairie Is... (percentages shown below reflect only those who answered the question)



Major Issues and Opportunities

COMMUNITY GROWTH AND IDENTITY

The Plan seeks balanced growth coordinated with investments in public services (e.g. schools), and a mix of infill development and incremental outward expansion. Continued investments in cultural traditions and the celebration of local history will orient the Sun Prairie identity as growth continues.



Major Issues and Opportunities

BALANCED NEIGHBORHOODS

Sun Prairie's newest and oldest neighborhoods feature a mix of housing types and some small-scale commercial uses too. Neighborhoods from 1950-2000 often lack that balance, having high concentrations of certain housing types, resulting in school equity problems.



Major Issues and Opportunities

BALANCED NEIGHBORHOODS

The Plan encourages balanced neighborhoods in growth areas and allows for neighborhood infill in certain circumstances that will improve neighborhood balance over time. Neighborhood associations and neighborhood plans are encouraged with support from the City's Planning Department.



Major Issues and Opportunities

URBAN DESIGN QUALITY

Commercial uses and larger, multi-unit residential buildings can conflict with lower-density neighborhood areas unless buildings and sites are designed with care to avoid negative impacts.



Major Issues and Opportunities

URBAN DESIGN QUALITY

The Plan offers specific design strategies for various building types and locations, especially when close to single-family homes. An update of the zoning ordinance is recommended, with a focus on physical design guidance.



Major Issues and Opportunities

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

Community feedback included strong support for investments in infrastructure for safe walking and biking. There are currently few on-street bike lanes and routes, and many gaps in the pedestrian sidewalk/path network.



Major Issues and Opportunities

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

The Plan describes the need for various on-street and off-street improvements and calls for an Active Transportation Plan. The Sidewalk Policy is reaffirmed with minor edits to support more predictable decisions about when they will be added along existing streets.



Major Issues and Opportunities

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The City has been actively seeking more effective public transportation resources for several years, and desire for transit was reinforced in feedback during the current planning process. An initial Metro Transit commuter route connecting to downtown Madison is already scheduled to begin service in 2019.



Major Issues and Opportunities

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Plan encourages effort to ensure the success of the commuter transit service, and then to build on that success over time to meet the needs of more people in more places. The land use plan encourages higher-density development in places that can be most readily served by transit.



Major Issues and Opportunities

HOME AFFORDABILITY

Housing prices have been rising quickly in recent years and they continue to rise faster than incomes. There is a particular shortage of units affordable to households earning 30% of the county median income. Employers are concerned that housing costs are limiting local workforce availability.



Major Issues and Opportunities

HOME AFFORDABILITY

The Plan prioritizes the creation of a detailed housing action plan, and an Affordable Housing Fund to support a variety of possible programs and incentives that can support affordability for rental and ownership housing. The Plan also encourages the development of housing types that limit cost such as smaller lots, smaller units, and attached units.



Major Issues and Opportunities

WORKFORCE LIMITATIONS

The City would like to attract employers in growing industries that offer family-supporting jobs, such as information technology, biotechnology, health services and insurance. Employment in the City has been growing, but hiring in all industries is a challenge due to the strong regional and national economy.



Major Issues and Opportunities

WORKFORCE LIMITATIONS

The Plan focuses on workforce attraction and development and takes a holistic approach, including investments in transit, housing, parks and recreation, schools, and workforce training. Strong communications practices by economic development staff and readiness to use targeted financial incentives will help the City grow employment in desirable industries.



Major Issues and Opportunities

SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

The Sun Prairie Area School District serves a large area, including parts of Madison and the surrounding towns. Continued growth has resulted in community approval for new schools, including a second high school. Though they are separate governmental entities, the health of the school system is closely tied to the health of the City.



Major Issues and Opportunities

SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

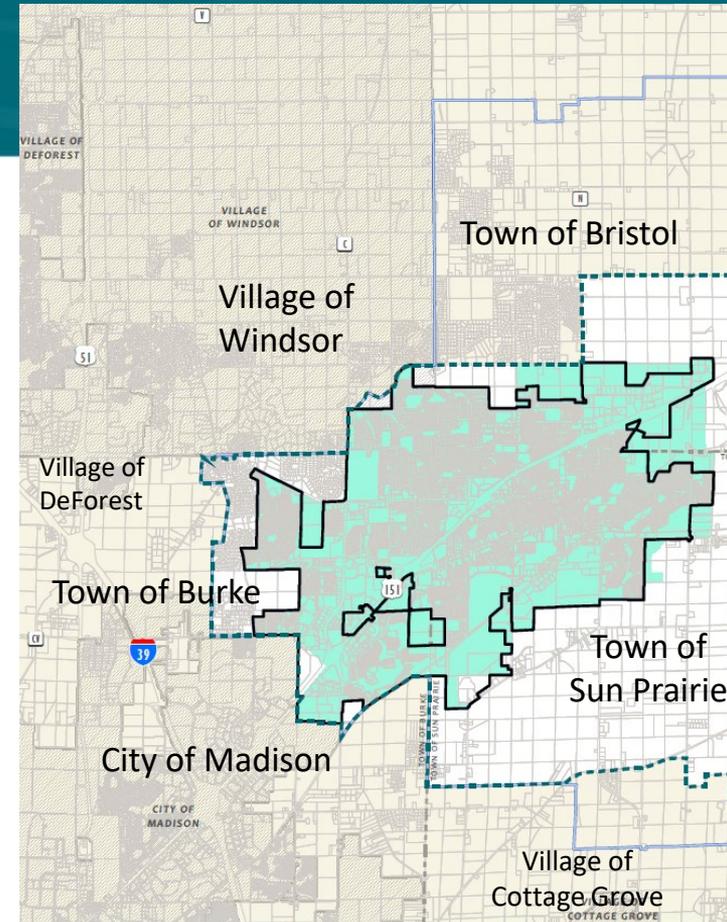
The Plan emphasizes the importance of good communication, including a semi-annual meeting between City and School District leaders and staff. The Plan's focus on balanced, walkable neighborhoods is also important to student and school success.



Major Issues and Opportunities

COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORS

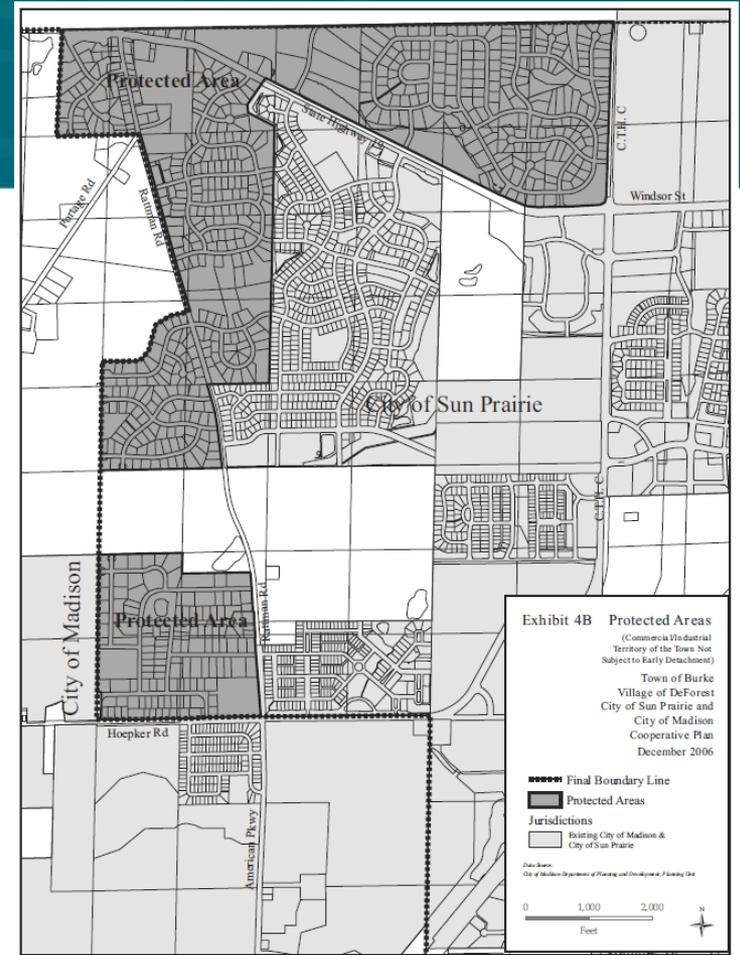
As the metropolitan area grows, so does the need for coordination between adjacent jurisdictions. Sun Prairie neighborhoods abut neighborhoods in Madison, Windsor, Bristol, Burke and the Town of Sun Prairie, presenting challenges and opportunities to maintain infrastructure and meet resident needs efficiently.



Major Issues and Opportunities

COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORS

The Plan directs the maintenance and update of intergovernmental agreements to help guide these relationships. Strong collaboration is specially identified with the Town of Burke in preparation for when the City absorbs parts of the Town in 2037. Cooperation among northeast metro area communities on public safety services is encouraged.



Major Issues and Opportunities

SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

Sun Prairie exists within global economic and environmental systems, and the City and its residents make decisions every day that have impacts on the environment. Residents continue to express concerns about how local conditions affect and are affected by changes in the global climate, including more frequent large rainfall events.



Major Issues and Opportunities

SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

The Plan includes a Sustainability Commitment to consistently consider the short-term and long-term impacts of local decisions on the economy, on the natural environment, and on the social vibrancy of the City. Policies and actions that address things like efficient resource use and reduced environmental impacts are highlighted.



Implementation

Implementation

City Council commitment to use the plan and seek consistency with its goals and policies.

Direction for key **City committees and City staff** to use this plan routinely to guide decisions.

Preparation of a **Comprehensive Plan Annual Report** to inform and guide the City's annual budgeting process.

Periodic review of plan implementation by an **on-going Comp Plan Steering Committee**.

More than **100 specific actions** to be completed in the coming years.

