



Department Source: Community Development - Planning

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 19, 2021

Re: Columbia Imagined Status Report - Acknowledgement and Acceptance (Case #47-2021)

Executive Summary

The *Columbia Imagined* Comprehensive Plan recommends that the Planning and Zoning Commission review a Status Report on the Plan after five years as shown on page 150 of the Plan. In addition to fulfilling this implementation objective, the Status Report may be used by the Council to direct staff and the Planning Commission on additional implementation activities. An Executive Summary of the Status Report's contents has also been prepared and provided in addition to the full document.

Discussion

Background

"Columbia Imagined – The Plan for How We Live & Grow" is the City of Columbia's comprehensive land use plan. Adopted by the City Council on October 7, 2013, the Plan provides residents, appointed boards and commissions, and elected officials with guidance on land use, growth management, and quality of life considerations.

The attached Status Report fulfills the objective that an "accountability check-in" on Plan's implementation occur at the mid-point of the Plan's planning horizon. The intent of the Status Report is to inform the public and Council on the Plan's remaining implementation activities by understanding what has been accomplished, the community's priorities on what remains outstanding, and by identifying preparation activities for the next full Plan update anticipated to occur following release of the 2020 Census data – likely in 2022 or 2023.

Report Process

The Status Report is the result of two years of work and two dozen work sessions held by the Planning Commission as well as public input from citizens and stakeholders. Despite the outreach efforts summarized below, the staff and Planning Commission acknowledge that more representative and robust public input is necessary. The input obtained as part of Status Report process was not representative of the City's diversity. To this end, the Commission recommends that financial resources be allocated to ensure a meaningful, diverse, and representative engagement process is conducted leading up to and during the next full Plan update.

Outreach efforts engaged in to prepare the Status Report's findings:

- 12 One-on-one and small group discussions with nearly 100 persons
- On-line and paper surveys: 237 responses to a general survey and 97 responses to topic-area surveys
- Press releases, on-line town halls, Nextdoor posts, listserv emails, newspaper ads, social media posts, and utility bill announcements
 - Columbia's Nextdoor network reaches 21,552 members and Status Report posts collected 14,126 total views.



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701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

- Eight notices to the City's 88 neighborhood associations, 84 home owner associations, and 10,060 Facebook and 9,439 Twitter followers
- Utility bill announcements to approximately 50,000 households.
- Two rough drafts, a pre-public meeting draft, and the final Public Meeting Draft were provided to the public and stakeholders. Each draft reflected public input received prior to draft publication.

Status Report Organization

The Status Report is organized into **six elements** which serve as report chapters.

1. Revisit the goals and objectives of the Plan. Identify areas of implementation success and those that should be pursued in the immediate, mid-term and long term planning horizon based upon community feedback.
2. Evaluate community data and identify emerging trends and priorities prior to embarking on the full Plan update.
3. Evaluate the role and potential updates to the Future Land Use Map and Urban Services Area Boundary.
4. Re-inform the Plan by looking at more recently adopted plans. Identify areas of overlap and "tensions" between goals and objectives of the Plan and other city-wide plans and planning processes.
5. Re-engage stakeholders in the comprehensive plan process and the role of the Planning & Zoning Commission. Share information and invite participation in the planning process. Reengage the public in prioritizing Plan elements and action items.
6. Seek feedback from stakeholders and the community on the Status Report and how the Comprehensive Plan may be further implemented by the community.

In addition to improvement of outreach and engagement, the Status Report identifies **nine immediate action items**, grouped in three categories, to carry out the implementation of *Columbia Imagined*:

Partnerships

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan coordination;
- Affordable housing strategies;
- Historic preservation planning;
- The West Area Plan;

Data-driven discussions

- The Growth Impact Study;
- Revise and update the Urban Services Area (a draft updated map is included);

Code amendments

- Continue the Unified Development Code amendment process;
- Define right-of-way needs on existing, developed major roads; and
- Re-evaluate accessory dwelling unit regulations.

Looking forward

Finally, the Status Report, in response to public and commission input, also describes community priorities and changing/emerging trends which will need to be featured in the next Plan update. These featured topics include broad public engagement, strengthened relationships with



stakeholders, greater plan coordination, clarification of the uses of the Urban Services Area, the importance of the "sharing economy," and social media, and how the City addresses the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including those impacts related to economic recovery/stabilization, transportation system demand, workforce practices, and communications systems.

Planning & Zoning Commission Review and Recommendation

The Planning and Zoning Commission considered this item at its December 10, 2020, meeting. Following staff's report, a representative of the Sierra Club spoke in support of the Report's efforts particularly related to implementation of the Climate Adaptation and Action Plan, enhanced relationships/ coordinated planning, using an equity & sustainability lens, and other environmental preservation implementation items; however, the representative noted they believe steep slopes ordinances need additional review.

There was some Planning Commission discussion that focused primarily on allocation of resources towards public engagement strategies, and comments that they had spent considerable time participating in the process. Following this discussion, a motion was made to recommend acknowledgement and acceptance of the Status Report which was approved by a vote of 8-0.

A copy of the Planning and Zoning Commission staff report, Status Report and Status Report Executive Summary, and meeting minute excerpts are attached.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Potential impacts are dependent on what policy or regulatory changes are implemented within the next two years. Impacts may be incurred if consultant services are required for public outreach or technical studies.

Long-Term Impact: Potential impacts may include resources dedicated to implementation activities that expand city policies or programs over what is presently in place.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
10/07/2013	Adopted "Columbia Imagined- The Plan for How We Live & Grow" (Ord. #021830)



Suggested Council Action

The following recommendation actions are recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission:

1. **Acknowledge** the Status Report fulfills the objective of Comprehensive Plan which state that the Planning and Zoning Commission review a Status Report on the Plan after five years of its initial adoption.
2. **Accept** the Status Report, as presented, to serve as the guide for future work program activities, policy, and regulatory changes necessary to effectuate implementation of the Columbia Imagined Comprehensive Plan.