

DATE: January 2, 2018
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Planning Director
SUBJECT: 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update, second public hearing to initiate 30-day regional review and public comment period.



SUGGESTED ACTION

Initiate regional review and open final public comment period for the comprehensive plan update.

BACKGROUND

Local governments in Georgia are required to develop and maintain a long range comprehensive plan in order to remain eligible for various state administered funding, permitting and incentive programs. A comprehensive plan is a policy guide that assesses current conditions, projects future trends, establishes goals, develops strategies, and sets up a short term work plan. State legislation mandates the plan must be updated every 10 years.

Planners from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) worked with city staff to prepare an update to our long-range plan with guidance from a steering committee made up of a strong group of community leaders with diverse backgrounds.

Residents, local business owners, elected officials, and city staff served on the committee and worked together to give direction and feedback at key points in the process. The committee organized for monthly public meetings and additional opportunities for public participation at other community meetings were advertised through local media outlets and on the city's social media sites. A project page on the city's website was also created with a link to all the available materials and a form to submit feedback to the planning department by email. The feedback form has been active since October.

The last public meeting was conducted in October to gather community-wide feedback which was considered in preparation of the final draft. This meeting was open house format and citizens provided comments in writing and through one-on-one discussion with city and ARC staff. All comments were synthesized into a final draft plan which staff is requesting authorization to release for regional review and public comment upon conducting the required second public hearing. The plan must be completed and transmitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) no later than February 29th, 2019 for the city to maintain qualified local government status under the state's local planning program administered by DCA.

DISCUSSION

- Updated plan integrates recent planning efforts. (Buford Hwy Corridor Market Analysis, 2016 Housing Study, Hwy 20 Corridor Study, Downtown Master Plan, and the Sugar Hill Greenway Master Plan.)
- The plan is an adaptable policy guide for land use and budgeting decisions over the next 2-10 years.
- Regional review will begin at the December council meeting and runs for 30 days. Planning staff expects to present the final document to the City Council in January.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Plan without Appendix