




SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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MEMO

REPORT DATE: July 27, 2021
TO: San Juan County Council
CC: Mike Thomas, County Manager
Erika Shook, AICP, DCD Director
FROM: Adam Zack, Planner III 
SUBJECT: 2036 Comprehensive Plan Update
Project Status
DISCUSSION: August 10, 2021

PURPOSE

To provide the County Council with a status update on the Comprehensive Plan (*Plan*) Update project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please send all public comments to compplancomments@sanjuanco.com. Please do not copy the County Council, Planning Commission members, or County Staff. Written public comments received by July 26 will be provided to the County Council prior to the meeting. Please focus public comments on the issues and options contemplated in this report.

BACKGROUND

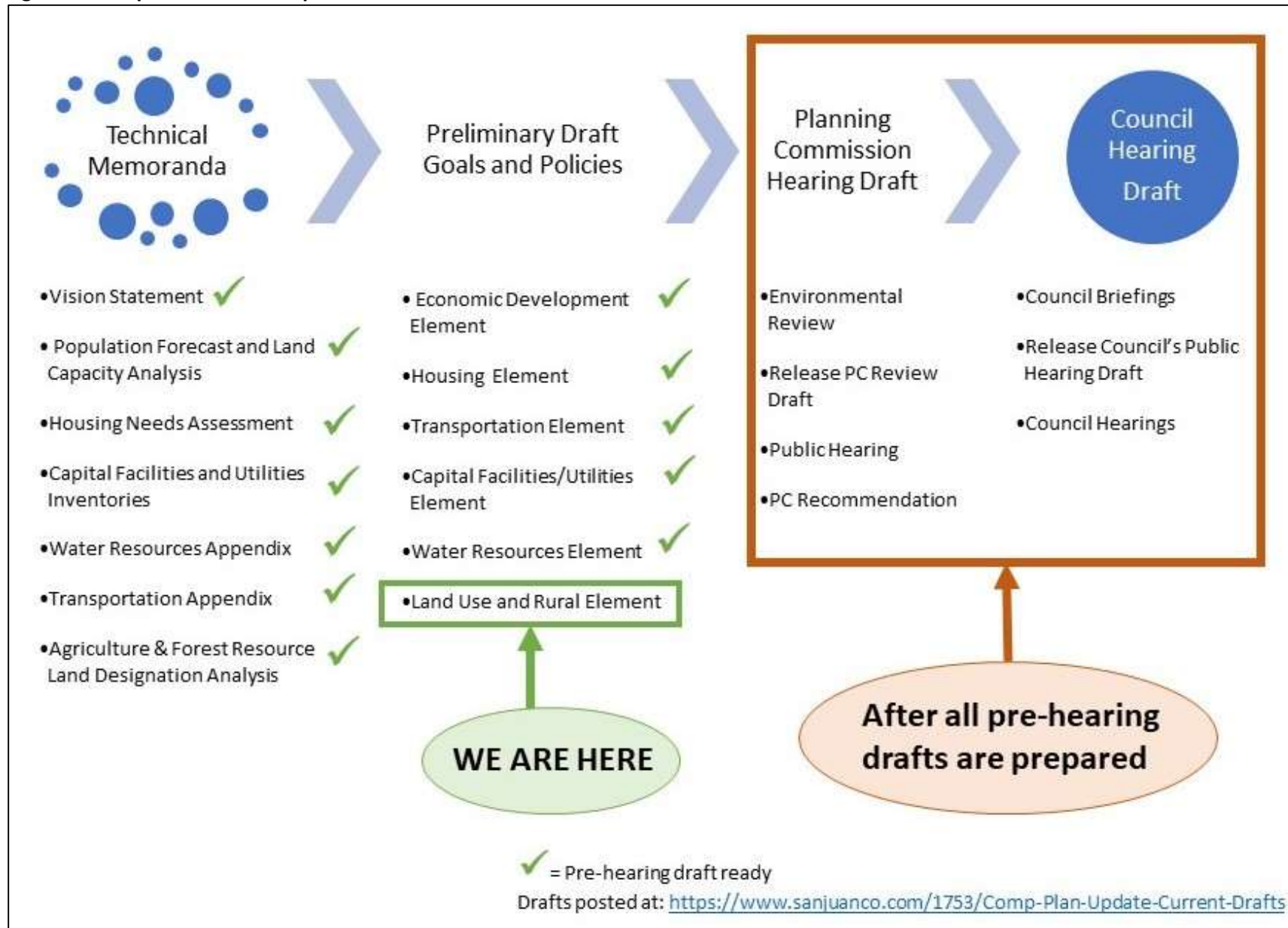
The County is in the process of updating the *Plan* to prepare for the projected growth through the year 2036. The WA State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the County periodically review and update the *Plan* as necessary. The *Plan* update project will satisfy the GMA periodic review requirement.

The *Plan* update project dates to 2016, when the scope of work was established by Resolution 21-2016. Staff is currently working with the Planning Commission and County Council to develop a draft of updates to the *Plan*. During the refinement of their draft, the Planning Commission will conduct additional public engagement activities to gather input on potential changes to the *Plan*. The refinement and public engagement are planned to be the bulk of the work the Planning Commission undertakes through the end of 2021. Once the Planning Commission has finished refining their draft of updates, they will hold at least one public hearing on the proposed amendments and make a recommendation to the County Council.

PROJECT STATUS

Significant work has been completed on the *Plan* update project. Figure 1 shows the *Plan* update process and the work completed to date.

Figure 1. Comprehensive Plan Update Process.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

After the Planning Commission has put together the pre-hearing draft of changes to the *Plan*, which includes possible Official Map changes, they will hold meetings to gather public input on the proposed changes. This public participation will include public workshops to give the public the opportunity to give direct feedback to the Planning Commission on the proposed changes. The Planning Commission will then refine the pre-hearing draft of changes based on the public input during public work sessions following the workshops. The refined pre-hearing draft will become the public hearing draft the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on before making a recommendation to the County Council. Staff will brief the County Council on the public workshop plan at a meeting in September.

More information about public participation is provided in the following documents:

- Resolution 21-2016: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/8673/>
- Staff Memo dated September 8, 2017: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/12969/>
- Staff Memo dated March 4, 2021: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/22340/>

TENTATIVE PLANNING COMMISSION OUTLOOK

Table 1 shows the expected topics to be covered during the upcoming Planning Commission meetings as the *Plan* update moves forward.

Table 1. Upcoming Planning Commission Meeting Schedule.

August 20
Brief: Land Use and Rural Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official Maps – UGA Issues - Official Maps – Refine Preliminary Land Use Designation Change List for Official Maps public workshops Brief: Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop Plan
September 17
Brief: Land Use and Rural Element – Loose Ends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Land Use Element for public process Brief: Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop Plan
October
Comprehensive Plan update Pop Ups and Open Houses
November
Comprehensive Plan update Town Halls
December
Comprehensive Plan update Town Halls
January
Comprehensive Plan Public Work Sessions