

Town of Windsor General Plan Update Joint Study Session #1

May 27, 2014

On May 27, 2014, the Town held a joint study session with the Town Council and Planning Commission to provide a common understanding of the need for and purpose of the General Plan Update, the key steps in the Update process, the outreach program, legislative mandates, and other important issues affecting this important project. During the study session, Council members and Commissioners discussed their expectations for the Update process and resulting General Plan. The following summarizes key themes of the discussion:

- The Town has done a great job in achieving the existing General Plan vision. Smart growth and sustainability are an important part of the existing Plan, and the Growth Ordinance is widely supported. The General Plan Update should review and update the Community's vision. The General Plan Update should include a review of the vision survey that was completed for the existing General Plan. The Plan also needs to evaluate some of the implications of changes that occur with smart growth? The Update should also explore whether there are new areas that could be included in the town?
- Windsor is a family-oriented, family-friendly town, and a desirable place to live. It is what sets Windsor apart. It is what people associate with the town. The General Plan Update should focus on preserving, enhancing, and emphasizing this aspect of Windsor. Keeping the town small and connected is important to preserving the town's desirability.
- The General Plan Update needs to focus on Downtown enhancement and improvement. The Town Green is the focal point of Windsor.
- Windsor's identity is beautiful (e.g., oak trees). The General plan Update needs to build upon and preserve the natural environment and the town's parks. The General Plan needs to include trails and access to trails as part of future development projects.
- The General Plan Update needs to anticipate a variety of housing types, especially for Windsor's aging population.
- The General Plan Update needs to provide opportunities for people to progress through Windsor, from jobs and careers to housing and families.
- The General Plan should accommodate the needs of all generations, especially young adults in their 20's (G4's). Windsor should be a place that attracts young adults to the town. The General Plan Update needs to focus on what today's youth will be attracted to in 20 years, on a day-to-day basis.
- In some cases the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance are out of alignment. The General Plan and zoning don't reflect the conditions that reduce developable area. The General Plan Update

should assess the actual developable area of property, considering environmental and other constraints.

- The Town needs a uniform presentation approach to developers and builders.
- Ideas for creatively engaging the community could include holding General Plan Update joint study sessions on the Town Green or providing the MindMixer townhall forum as a kiosk at community events. The Update needs to provide opportunities for the Council to listen to people in the community, especially young people. The Council wants to hear from those who typically don't participate in public meetings.