

Report to the Manitowoc Plan Commission

Meeting Date: January 25, 2023

Request: PC 5-2022: Update on the Comprehensive Plan Project. Discuss Comprehensive Plan Policy Questions.

Report: Vandwalle & Associates had multiple locations in the Comprehensive Plan asking for direction on policy statements which the Plan Commission has not addressed yet. The text below are topics of discussion copied and pasted from the draft Comprehensive Plan. The goal is to find out if the Plan Commission wants to retain, delete or modify these policy statements in the plan.

Chapter 2

- Advance the City's Role in Sustainability and Climate Resiliency and Prepare a Climate Action Plan.
- Incorporate climate resilience and adaptation into transportation infrastructure planning.

Chapter 5

- Create a Stormwater Utility to Promote Stormwater Best Management Practices.

Chapter 8

- Advance the City's role in climate resilience and sustainability through the implementation of stormwater best management practices and the preservation of natural and agricultural resources.

Introduction – Plan Purpose

This Plan is intended to help the City guide short-range and long-range growth and development in order to help the community adapt to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century. The City of Manitowoc's Comprehensive Plan will help the community's decisionmakers guide, promote, and foster public health, safety, and welfare, with particular attention to **equity, inclusion, ecological sustainability**, and fiscal responsibility. The goals, objectives, and recommendations laid out in this plan will guide community change, growth, and development to ensure continued and enhanced community prosperity in the future.

Introduction pg 3

- Directly connect city policies and development choices to social equity, ecological sustainability, and related goals and values.

Chapter 2 Livability, Sustainability and Health – Goals, Objectives and Policies

- Establish municipal and City-wide climate emissions and renewable energy goals as part of a Climate Action Plan that establishes local climate adaptation, resiliency, and mitigation strategies. Pg 16
- Establish and pursue local climate adaptation and resiliency mitigation strategies, and actively contribute to establishing and implementing regional sustainability plans. Pg 16

Climate Action Plan

The purpose of a Climate Action Plan is to set ambitious carbon reduction and renewable energy goals for the community and develop an action plan for how to accomplish them. This process helps chart a course for how the City, its residents, public sector partners, and the private sector can work together to make these goals a reality. Key components of a Climate Action Plan include:

- Setting carbon reduction and renewable energy goals for the next 10 years.
- Developing strategies on how the community can advance and meet these goals.
- Establish partnerships with overlapping jurisdictions, local businesses and community organizations, utility providers, and others.
- Identifying funding sources for implementation.
- Creating the framework for future programs, policies, and decision making.

INCORPORATE CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTION INTO TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING - Pg. 18

Investments in infrastructure are long term. The City's roads, drinking water, energy, stormwater, and wastewater systems – everything that supports our lives and livelihoods – will be subjected to climate conditions substantially different than those they were designed for, over most of their future service life. In many cases, these future climate conditions could significantly impact infrastructure performance, and may result in service disruptions, failures, and costly retrofits.

Identifying and developing climate change adaptation strategies will improve infrastructure planning, design, management, and operation under these future conditions. Also, the construction and operation of infrastructure have itself a substantial environmental footprint, increasing the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change. Climate change mitigation actions can reduce these impacts and provide additional benefits to risk management, water quality, preserve habitat and natural systems, aesthetics, and others. Many of these contributing strategies are incorporated throughout this plan:

- Integrate and increase green infrastructure
- Prioritize non-motorized mobility
- Preserve environmental corridors and steep slopes
- Incorporate future climate projections into utility planning
- Facilitate energy efficiency in buildings and facilities distributed renewable energy systems
- Support weatherization and updates to older homes and structures

Calumet Avenue Road Reconstruction pg 44

Investigate road designs, eliminating lanes, improving pedestrian and bike facilities

Challenges and Weaknesses Chapter 7 Economic Development

•Dealing with an aging population and workforce, modest population growth, the effects of climate change, and internal policy challenges that the City will face as it evolves and balances the desires of more conservative, long-term residents against those of newer and younger residents, as well as the needs and demands of retiring Baby Boomers.

•Fostering green and sustainable business growth and supporting “triple bottom line” economic development practices that align with environmental and social priorities. Chapter 7 Economic Development Pg 83

(The triple bottom line is an accounting framework with three parts: social, environmental and economic. Some organizations have adopted the TBL framework to evaluate their performance in a broader perspective to create greater business value.)

FOSTER GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS GROWTH TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABILITY

Studies conducted by the World Resources Institute, United Nations, U.S. Chamber of Commerce among many others describe adapting to a changing climate as a tremendous economic opportunity for growth in addition to improving quality of life. Business and government response to climate change mitigation and adaptation are generational shifts that are expected to create unique economic development opportunities for new businesses, new markets, and increased efficiency, waste reduction, and risk management. Communities, regions, and firms that are able to adapt to the changing climate and successfully capture opportunities in rapidly expanding markets for new products and services will be better positioned for overall community vitality. As urgent and systemic as the challenge of climate change is, successfully addressing these challenges must be viewed as an opportunity.

The City recognizes that every business and sector is already impacted by climate and corresponding changes in the market. The City can position its economic development priorities, focus, and tools to target known and emerging climate solutions and opportunities. In addition, the City and its collaborators should stay current on emerging opportunities and threats related to environmental conditions in order to adapt its strategies as required. Economic Development Chapter pg 87 policy question in yellow

Chapter 8 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Recommendations Summary

- Advance the City's role in climate resilience and sustainability through the implementation of stormwater best management practices and the preservation of natural and agricultural resources.

Climate Action, Sustainability, Equity, and Public Health. Chapter 9 Intergovernmental Cooperation

There are many local and regional groups working on various projects and programs related to advancing these initiatives. As documented throughout this Plan, Manitowoc should play a leadership role in advancing these topics at the local and regional level to improve health outcomes, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste, increase energy efficiency, improve social equity, evaluate and expand equitable services, and prepare for climate change. policy question in yellow