

Public Involvement



Where does this topic fit within the new Comprehensive Plan?

Hillsboro's updated Comprehensive Plan is organized around seven core topic areas. These core areas cover broad, interconnected subjects that help define and guide the future growth and development of Hillsboro.



Public Involvement is part of the **Bolstering Community Involvement** core area.



The full background report is available at plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov/involvement

Public involvement is critical to the success of Hillsboro's planning efforts. Hillsboro residents expect the City to maintain transparency, provide access to information, and offer avenues for meaningful public participation in the planning process.

Existing Activities

The Hillsboro Planning Department conducts a number of public involvement activities. These activities include notifying community members of land use applications, holding events for planning projects, providing public information in person and online, and actively researching how to further involve the community in guiding the growth of the city.

In addition to these activities, the Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) and Advisory Committee for Citizen Involvement (ACCI) provide opportunities for more formal public involvement.

Issues and Challenges

The City faces a number of issues and challenges relating to successfully involving the public, including:

- **Effectiveness of Public Involvement Committees** — The CIAC and ACCI, two committees intended to engage the public on planning issues and projects, do not function effectively and could be restructured to provide broader representation.
- **Departmental Public Involvement Plan** — The Planning Department does not have an overall engagement program to plan, implement, and evaluate public involvement efforts.
- **Multilingual Content** — The lack of materials available in Spanish and other languages presents a barrier to participation for a significant portion of the community.



Emerging Trends and Opportunities

Examples of effective public engagement strategies can help shape new goals and policies. These include:

- **Collaborative Community Engagement** — This strategy involves partnering with groups within the target community whose participation is needed in order for the project to be successful.
- **Youth Engagement** — Participation of youth leaders on committees and governing bodies could lend an important and innovative perspective to existing public involvement efforts.

- **Web and Mobile Technologies** — Members of the community desire broader, more consistent engagement through technology and access to enhanced Web resources.
- **Open Data and Civic Technology** — Providing easy access to City data improves transparency and enables community members to build new tools and applications that address community issues.

Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

Public involvement is vital to the success of the new Comprehensive Plan. We strive to take the discussion beyond something we *have* to do to comply with state law, instead identifying it as something we *want* to do to achieve our goals and improve our work in the future.

Several updates are recommended:

- **Create a dedicated Comprehensive Plan section for Public Involvement.**
- **Improve the structure and effectiveness of public involvement committees.**
- **Develop goals and policies that promote and improve overall engagement, accessibility, and transparency, as well as outreach to populations not typically involved in the planning process.**

Find Out More

For more information, including upcoming events and opportunities to get involved, please visit plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov.

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