

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning & Economic Development Committee **DATE:** 9/9/16

FROM: Todd Okolichany, AICP, LEED AP ND, Planning & Urban Design Director

PREPARED BY: Stacy Merten, Project Manager and Historic Resources Director

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update Status Report

Summary

This is a status report from the Department of Planning and Urban Design on the Comprehensive Plan update for the City of Asheville.

Background

The Comprehensive Plan is a tool that the City uses to establish a high-level vision to guide policy decisions over a 10-15 year period. The update to the Comprehensive Plan will provide a visionary framework to help guide Asheville's long term development and provide an essential tool that will be used across the City's many departments.

Update

The Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM) planning team was in Asheville on August 11, 2016, for the first meeting with the newly appointed Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee was introduced to the planning process with a presentation that focused on the utility, goals, organization and schedule of the project. There was also discussion about the public participation process and thoughts were shared about a name for the plan. A facilitated discussion ensued to get input from the committee on the principles and goals that the plan should address.

SOM also met with the City's Technical Team to review the draft Assessment Report, which outlined the findings from their detailed review of existing city plans, the findings from the benchmarking exercise and some preliminary findings from the economic development and housing analysis. Staff coordinated the feedback from the Advisory Committee and Technical Team to share with SOM for the final Assessment Report, which should be delivered in the next week.

Planning and Urban Design staff continues to work with Chipley consulting and CAPE to get the word out about the survey through in-person attendance at neighborhood meetings, coordination with volunteer sustainability students, attendance at various special events, social media posts, press releases and blog posts. The deadline for the on-line survey which has also been posted on-line in Spanish will be extended through September 26, 2016. There will be an additional media push to announce extension of the survey. The survey is also available at recreation centers throughout the City.

The first public workshop at the Asheville Collider is now scheduled for October 10, 2016. Staff will coordinate with SOM and CAPE to develop a poster to help advertise the event, and the Collider staff will also help with advertising.

Financial Impact/Resources

The Comprehensive Plan contract was approved with a total budget not to exceed \$264,345.

2036 Council Vision

This Comprehensive Plan update aligns with the 2036 Council Vision in the following area:

- **A Well-Planned and Livable Community.** The Comprehensive Plan update aims to promote community through thoughtful, resident-led planning that will result in strategies related to land use, multimodal transportation, economic development, infrastructure, housing, livability, place-making, open space, streetscapes, climate change, sustainability and resiliency.

Recommendation

Not applicable. The information provided in this report is for information purposes only.