



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: 2025-2027 PLANNING COMMISSION GOAL-SETTING

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RECOMMENDATION

Review the 2023-2025 Planning Commission (PC) goals, take public testimony, and identify PC goals and work program items for the 2025-2027 Financial Plan.

1.0 SUMMARY

Bi-annually, the City adopts a budget and financial plan. To prepare for the budget process, all City departments and advisory bodies are asked to identify their goals and major work programs for the next two years. The City Council then uses this information, along with public comment and other input, to set community priorities and to allocate resources to accomplish the identified Major City Goals.

Input from City advisory bodies is specifically solicited, because the advisory body members are recognized as representatives of the community, that are committed to the long-term best interest of the City and its residents. Other key points as we embark on this goal-setting process are:

1. The Council is seeking advisory body input focused on the purview area of the advisory body and is also interested in input on other issues that are important to the community.
2. Advisory body input is highly valued by the Council and City staff.
3. Goals can include completing projects from a previous work program.
4. Identifying priorities implies recommending fewer rather than more goals to the Council. Advisory bodies are encouraged to only recommend activities that can reasonably be accomplished during a two-year financial plan cycle.

Objective

This is a public process and citizens participation is welcomed. The results of this process include a list of PC goals that will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration as part of the 2025-2027 financial planning and budget cycle.

2.0 GOAL SETTING

Current Recommended Goals: 2023 - 2025

The City last revised its goals and work programs starting in September 2023 in connection with the preparation of the 2023-2025 Financial Plan and budget cycle. The PC prioritized the following goals based on the evaluation of the completion status for the 2021-23 Major City Goals; community need, and input received over the past 2 years; and the availability of City resources to accomplish the identified goals and work programs within the financial plan timeframe. Below are the goals that the PC recommended during the 2023-2025 budget cycle:

1. Housing: Increase Affordable and Workforce Housing Supply

Emphasize affordable housing programs, encourage flexible use and non-traditional housing product types to facilitate development of workforce, elderly, and missing middle housing. Provide public information and educational materials that promote the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units.

2. Sustainability: Reduce GHG Emissions by Reducing VMT and Improving Residential Energy Efficiency

Implement the Climate Action Plan with emphasis on: 1) identify, implement and promote financial incentives to improve energy efficiency and encourage electrification in existing housing stock and create and distribute educational materials promoting this practice; 2) developing standards that support infrastructure improvements for alternative transportation and electric vehicles; and 3) focus on expanding open space and the urban forest.

3. Multi-Modal Circulation: Improve Walkability and Transit

Implement the Multi-Modal objectives identified in the LUCE and the Downtown Concept Plan by encouraging density and in-fill development that includes and prioritizes non-automobile alternatives to access commercial, services and recreational opportunities. Review the Upper Monterey Area Plan and Margarita Area Specific Plan with the intention of providing more housing opportunities to the elderly population, potential for a new transit center located in the Margarita area and encourage protected bike lanes in all new development projects in these areas.

4. Livability

Encourage project designs that promote accessible, convenient, and safe pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access with the goal of reducing project-generated vehicle miles traveled by 20-40% below average.

Future Recommended Goals: 2025-2027

As the City begins the 2025-2027 financial planning and budget cycle, the PC has the opportunity to review their current goals, update them as necessary, and identify any new goals.

Goal Setting Process

The Commission should review their 2023-2025 goals, followed by discussion and consideration of recommended goals to be included in the 2025-2027 Financial Plan. Typically, during goal setting sessions, the PC has followed the steps below.

Goal-setting Steps:

1. Evaluate previous goals and work programs. Determine which goals and programs were accomplished and can be deleted, or which ones are no longer needed;
2. Determine which goals and/or programs have not been completed and should be carried forward;
3. Identify new goals or programs for possible inclusion in the work program;
4. Prioritize the goals and programs, based on the PC's adopted goals and General Plan goals, community needs and input, opportunities, or special or urgent conditions; and
5. Identify activities which may require additional resources to accomplish. This may include references to possible community partnerships or outside funding sources.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

The Commission should take public testimony and identify Commission goals and work program items for the 2025-2027 Financial Plan. Advisory body goals are due by December 13th, 2024. The Council will receive the final report with all advisory body recommendations in late December 2024 before they begin the community goal-setting process.