The Future of the Comprehensive Plan

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The 20th-century comprehensive plan was organized into topical elements focused on physical development and using zoning codes and ordinances. The 21st-century model incorporates community values and issues identified through community engagement. The plan is organized around themes rather than topical elements. It transcends land use and physical development.

A need to acknowledge in a comprehensive plan societal challenges such as climate change, socioeconomic inequality, and technological disruption.

Standard City Planning Enabling Act, (SCPEA) 1928	A Standard State Zoning Enabling Act (SZEA) 1926
Facilitate adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, parks, and other public requirements. Make/adopt a master plan for the municipality's physical development. *The Urban General Plan* by T. J. Kent, 1964, Plan should 1. Be long-range, comprehensive, and general, 2. Physical development focus, 3. Policy guide for decision-making. A rational planning, top-down approach.	
The 20th Century: **Rational planning**, (1940s/1950s), is a top-down process in which planners use technical knowledge to present choices to decision-makers in a sequence of logical steps to develop the plan. **Advocacy planning,** (1960s), gave voice to low-income and minority groups excluded from the Rational model. **Vision planning**, (1980s), to invite the community's voice to help define a desired future and determine strategies.	
The 21st Century: **Values-driven planning**, (1990s), structured citizen involvement to design vision, values, and consensus.	
Key Themes: • **Sustainability:** "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." • **Resilience:** "The capacity of cities to function, so that the people living and working in cities – particularly the poor and vulnerable – survive and thrive no matter what stresses or shocks they encounter. • **Equity:** "Just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Unlocking the promise of the nation by unleashing the promise in us all."	
New discipline: climate action	

Normative Statements of Intent –

Underlie the plan's overall strategy, including goals, objectives, policies, maps, and other content. They reveal how the substantive content of the plan is changing in response to 21st-century challenges related to sustainability, resilience, and equity.

Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Six Principles

Principle	***Description***
Livable Built Environment	Ensure all elements of a built environment work together to provide sustainable, green places for living, working, and recreation, with a high quality of life.
Harmony with Nature	Ensure that the contribution of natural resources to human well-being is explicitly recognized and valued and that maintaining their health is a primary objective.
Resilient Economy	Ensure the community is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes to its economic health and to initiate sustainable urban development and redevelopment strategies that foster green business growth and build reliance on local assets.
Interwoven Equity	Ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety, and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups.
Healthy Community	Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, health care, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods.
Responsible Regionalism	Ensure that all local proposals account for, connect with, and support the plans of adjacent jurisdictions and the surrounding region.

PAS Two Processes

Processes	***Description***
Authentic Participation	Ensure that the planning process actively involves all segments of the community in analyzing issues, generating visions, developing plans, and monitoring outcomes.
Accountable Implementation	Ensure that responsibilities for carrying out the plan are clearly stated, along with metrics for evaluating progress in achieving desired outcomes.

PAS Two Attributes

Attributes	***Description***
Consistent Content	Ensure that the plan contains a consistent set of visions, goals, policies, objectives, and actions that are based on evidence about community conditions, major issues, and impacts.
Coordinated Characteristics	Ensure that the pan includes creative and innovative strategies and recommendations and coordinates them internally with each

	other, vertically with federal and state requirements, and horizontally with plans of adjacent jurisdictions.

General Plan Characteristics: Organized around themes that emerge from the planning process, integrate visual images and infographics to communicate information and ideas, and are presented using online and digital formats.

General Plan Implementation: Identify actions, timeframes, responsibilities, and metrics to measure progress in achieving desired outcomes.

The Future of the Comprehensive Plan: Climate change and natural disasters, technological innovation, and economic transformation, shifting demographics, and increasing socioeconomic inequality. A potentially vital role in enabling communities to proactively prepare for and adapt to the disruptive effects of change in an uncertain world.

Three qualities are needed in the Plan:

1. **Foresight** for what will or might happen. Use exploratory scenario planning to consider a range of possible futures and strategic responses.
2. **Systems thinking** recognizing the community as a complex system of interacting subsystems such as built and natural environments, mobility networks, utilities, and social infrastructure. Examine the interactions between systems and apply principles such as leverage points and feedback loops to optimize desired outcomes.
3. **Adaptability** uses implementation approaches that draw on principles of adaptive management anticipatory governance, and scenario planning in an ongoing process of monitoring and adjustment to inform decision-making.

Normative imperatives to enable communities to

seize opportunities and address 21st-century challenges:

1. **Equity** – give voice to and provide for the needs of all community members. Understand how the past is reflected in the present and will continue to influence the future with good and poor practices embedded in social, political, and economic systems. Break down barriers and target actions (regulations, etc.) to reduce or eliminate inequity.
2. **Climate change** – address causes through mitigation, minimization, and adaptation of an integrated framework and strategies of land use, the built environment, natural and social ecosystems, transportation and infrastructure, and the economy. Climate-positive planning and design, and removing more carbon from the atmosphere than is generated. Energy efficient buildings, infrastructure, use of renewable sources, waste reduction, recycling, transportation system that reduces reliance on fossil-fuel powered, vehicles, and plantings to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to shocks and stresses caused by climate change. Ways to monitor real-world outcomes to adjust as needed. Increasing multifunctional green infrastructure.
3. **Health** – WHO defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." How the full range of community systems

(natural, built environment, social, and economic) and subsystems interact to shape individual and community health.

4. **Nature** – Integrating the built and natural environment to mitigate the trend of biodiversity extinction.
    a. Preserve and maintain the functionality of remaining natural ecosystems
    b. Improve the functionality of urban ecosystems by integrating green infrastructure into the built environment.
5. **Technology** – Use technology to support community values and achieve more sustainable, resilient, and equitable outcomes. Use information and communication technology to collect, communicate, and analyze data in order to "enhance the city's livability, workability, and sustainability."
6. **Implementation** – develop approaches and tools to translate community goals into measurable results. The real-world impacts of a comprehensive plan are determined by the extent to which it is implemented. Implementation is typically the weakest section of contemporary comprehensive plans with too little detail or too much (policies and actions with limited guidance on how to implement them).
    a. '"Zoning and development regulations have traditionally been the primary mechanisms used to implement the comprehensive plan. While regulatory changes are important for successful plan implementation, they are not sufficient to realize desired plan outcomes."