



Horizon Is 'Still Happening'

Horizon Undergoes Five-Year Updates

Plan Amendment Process

The Horizon Plan is not a static document -- it becomes ineffective the moment it is viewed as such. During the 20-year time frame of the plan, the City-Parish will undergo numerous demographic, economic and social changes, many of which cannot be foreseen during the initial plan development process. Circumstances will change and new issues will require modifications to the plan. These changes will impact the goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the framework for the Horizon Plan.

It is critical that the plan be subjected to a systematic review and amendment process to ensure that the Horizon Plan continues to reflect the vision of the City-Parish held by its citizens and elected officials. As in the case of the initial Horizon Plan process, citizen participation in the Plan Amendment Process is critical. Citizens should be involved in the initiation of Plan Amendments, as well as the opportunity to voice their opinions at public hearings held during the Plan Amendment Process.

Amendments

The dynamic nature of comprehensive planning demands that the City-Parish establish formal procedures by which the Horizon Plan can be periodically reviewed and amended. Two different types of reviews are needed: annual Plan Amendments and major five-year Plan Updates. The purpose of the annual Plan Amendments is to consider relatively minor revisions on a regular basis, such as land use changes, and to ensure that the Plan is consistent with ordinances. Most of the "2010 Land Use Plan" Amendments are companion requests reviewed concurrently with monthly rezoning cases when the zoning requested is not consistent with the land use category. Since the Horizon Plan is a mandated plan, rezoning must be consistent with the Horizon Land Use Plan. If not the "2010 Land Use Plan" must be amended. Information Bulletin Number 9, "Horizon Plan: How It Changes," further describes this aspect

of the Amendment Process. Revisions proposed by the annual reviews and five-year updates are proposed Plan Amendments to be considered for adoption by the Metropolitan Council.

Updates

The purpose for conducting major five-year Plan Updates include the fact that future population growth and land development may make it necessary to update the data on which the plan is based. Also, community values and conditions may change to the extent that many of the goals, objectives and policies in the plan need to be reformulated. However, the fundamental purpose of the Plan Update is to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan during the period covered by the update. An assessment is needed to determine the adequacy of the plan and determine how it can be more successful in achieving the goals and objectives. Based upon this assessment, recommendations can be made for maintaining and improving the overall quality and effectiveness of the Horizon Plan.

Plan updates of the Horizon Plan are required every five years. The Update requires an analysis of the current conditions in the City-Parish. Background information, demographic and economic analyses, and forecasts should be updated to identify new development activity as well as changing patterns of use. Existing and future land use data should be updated to identify new development activity.

1. Growth Center Community Planning Process

The process of updating the Horizon Plan are complemented by an ongoing data collection process which continuously monitors

factors such as land use changes, plan amendments and the accomplishments of plan objectives. Annual Plan Amendments adopted in the previous four years are incorporated in the five-year Update. The information gathered to analyze current conditions provides the new basis for developing a description of current conditions affecting the City-Parish, including unanticipated needs and opportunities that have occurred since the date of plan adoption (April 1, 1992) and each subsequent five-year interval. The impact of these needs and opportunities upon the growth and development of the City-Parish, both positive and negative, and the social, economic and

environmental effects of these influences will also be addressed. In addition to recent land use information, economic data and changes in population and attitudes are used by Planning Commission Staff to develop population and economic forecasts and to re-evaluate and formulate goals, objectives, policies, and implementation strategies.

2. Evaluate Goals and Objectives

The information and analyses developed in the updating process provides the basis for recommending changes to the Horizon Plan and each of the Plan Elements. An

evaluation is conducted on an element by element basis and includes Land Use; Transportation; Infrastructure; Conservation; Recreation; Housing; and Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services. The evaluation of the Horizon Plan is based upon current status of the Action Items, applicability of the goals and objectives related to the Action Items, and the feasibility of implementation of the Action Items.

3. Concept Plan

A Concept Plan based on regional Planning District relationships and the seven elements is developed through a series of Lead Agency discussions in which the

citizenry is invited to participate. The main components of the Concept Plan include Action Items, Environment, Land Use, the Major Street Plan and Transportation. The Concept Plan addresses implementation strategies including funding mechanisms to further implement the Horizon Plan. This is an ongoing task that continues with each phase of the Five-Year Update Process.

4. Initiate Planning District Update

The Horizon Plan calls upon the Planning Commission to discuss issues related to aesthetics of land use and development within a subarea and neighborhood context.

The purpose of the Community Growth Center Planning Process is to give residents, landowners, and businesses an opportunity to participate in the community planning process for their Growth Center. Growth Centers are specified in the Horizon Plan as areas with infrastructure to efficiently accommodate future growth. This process required a series of public meetings in the 29 Growth Centers.

5. Implementation

Strategies to implement the Horizon Plan Five-Year Update are initiated during the Concept Plan phase. Funding alternatives

and mechanisms will be researched and evaluated during the entire Five-Year Update Process. This phase proposes specific methods to implement the Five-Year Update Action Items.

6. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Projects and programs identified in the Five-Year Update Process also are identified throughout this phase and prioritized in the Capital Improvement

Program (CIP) and the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB).

7. Review by Planning Commission

Review by the Planning Commission is the first step in the formal adoption process.

Upon receipt of the Update, the Planning Commission establishes a date for public hearing on the proposed amendments as required by state law.

8. Planning Commission Approval

Notice of the public hearing will be widely distributed. The Planning Commission submits the Plan Update to the Mayor

President after it has reviewed the Update and held the public hearing. The transcript of the public hearing as well as the review comments of the Planning Commission also should be forwarded to the Mayor-President.

9. Review by Metropolitan Council

The Mayor-President submits the Horizon Plan Update to the Metropolitan Council for its consideration. The Council is required by the Plan of Government to

conduct at least two public hearings on the proposed amendments. Adequate notice of the public hearings should be provided. The Council should have the benefit of the recommendations by the Planning Commission and the Mayor-President.

10. Modification And Adoption

After the Council has completed its review of the Update and conducted the required public hearings, it must decide whether to adopt or reject the Update. If rejected, the

Metropolitan Council must provide the reasons and forward this information to the Planning Commission. The Commission must modify the Update accordingly and forward the revised Update to the Mayor-President. Once the Mayor-President completes the review the Update is again forwarded to the Metropolitan Council for review. Another public hearing must be held by the Council and it is at this stage that the final Update Plan should be adopted.

For more information contact:

City-Parish Planning Commission
1755 Florida Street, Third Floor
P.O. Box 1471

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Telephone: (225) 389-3144 Fax: (225) 389-5342

Office Hours: 8 a.m.—5 p.m. M-F

Email: planning@brgov.com

Web page: <http://www.brgov.com/dept/planning>