

Visioning exercise using current vision statements from Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Plan, Industrial Park Master Plan etc.

Purpose – set the foundation for a discussion of goals and objectives. The Council's long and short-term visions provide direction for staff efforts.

The City has developed a number of vision statements for the community over the last few years. The staff recommendation is to start with a consensus on the vision for the City and then drill down to develop specific actions (goals and objectives) to achieve the vision. This ensures that the Council and staff are following the stated direction of the community.

The intent of the discussion is to answer the following questions. There may be other questions identified by the Council that also need to be addressed during the retreat:

- What vision is the Council hoping to achieve?
- Where does the Council want to focus the City's attention?
- How does this focus move the community forward towards its vision?
- What resources (staff, financial, community) are needed to achieve the vision?
- How will the City obtain these resources – grants, donations, general fund, new utility fees, etc?

Comprehensive Plan Vision – 1994

The vision was based on community feedback from the community assessment study and survey. The following statements constitute the vision that the Town's residents have for themselves:

The Setting

- Maintain a small town feeling
- Emphasize the recreation opportunities outside the immediate community and within the city
- Improve the visual image (buildings, landscape, and streetscape)

The Economy

- Diversify services so the shopping needs of Sultan residents can be met within the city
- Encourage small business
- Seek employment opportunities by accommodating clean industry and manufacturing

Housing

- Maintain the single-family character while recognizing the need to provide housing for all income ranges.

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Industrial Park Master Plan

The vision looks ahead 15-20 years into the future. The actual build-out of the area may take longer depending on the economy and the demand for land to accommodate new development and expansion of existing business..

By 2020, the Sultan Industrial Park area will be substantially developed with a mix of businesses including manufacturing, distribution, and technology-based industry; community-serving and visitor-oriented retail and personal services; offices; hotels; recreational vehicle accommodations; and dining and entertainment venues. Buildings will house freestanding single operations, business and industrial parks, and multi-tenant flexible space users.

Housing

The upper terrace along the northern portion of the area will be developed for mixed office and medium density residential uses taking advantage of views and access from Sultan Basin Road.

Transportation

SR2 will be a busy urban arterial providing both state highway functions as well as local access. The highway will be improved with intersection signals, turning lanes, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. Access and egress serving businesses will be designed to serve multiple properties. An internal network of public streets will connect users on the north side of the highway and provide for traffic circulation connections to Sultan Basin Road and Rice Road as well as to signalized intersections with SR2. These streets will be landscaped, provide for pedestrians and bicycles, and connect open space.

Natural Environment

The natural environment will be enhanced using the Wagley's Creek corridor and associated wetlands to create habitat and open spaces that will provide green relief from the intensively developed areas. Regional stormwater detention ponds will be integrated into this system using biofiltration to clean the water before it reaches the natural areas.

Buildings, parking lots, signage, and landscaping will be designed to show a flexible but collective look of the area that will say, "you have arrived in Sultan" to travelers passing through on the highway.

Employment and Tax Base

Hundreds of jobs will be filled by local residents who will be able to commute to work in a few minutes, some by foot or bicycle. Sales tax, business and occupation tax, and property tax revenues to the City will support increased city services to all of Sultan.

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Downtown Sultan 2020

In 2020, Downtown Sultan is a vibrant center for the larger Sky Valley community. Downtown has become an economic, social, and cultural anchor for residents and visitors. SR 2 has been improved as an urban arterial with intersection improvements, sidewalks, and pedestrian lighting, landscaping and signage.

Businesses along the highway share parking with Main Street businesses on the interior of the blocks. Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Streets have become connectors for both vehicular and pedestrian movement between the highway and Main Street. Main Street has been improved to reflect the historic small town feel of Sultan with improved sidewalks, planting, and seating.

Western Portion of Downtown

The western portion of Downtown from First to Fifth is the most intensive part, featuring a mix of business, government, and recreation activities including City Hall and Library, Museum, and the tourist information center. Free short-term parking for visitors is provided near River Park. Two- and three-story mixed use buildings have been constructed along Main Street with retail businesses on the ground floor and offices and apartments above.

Central Portion of Downtown

The central portion of Downtown from Fifth to Eight is the major shopping and business center for Downtown, with retail, dining, and services located in buildings along Main Street and auto-oriented businesses along the highway. The Main Street frontage features two- and three-story buildings with awnings, storefronts, and office and apartments above. Several buildings have apartments designed for seniors. Teens are attracted to this part of Main Street by indoor and outdoor places to hang out and enjoy music, books, games and apparel.