

Bloomington Planning Commission

2021 Work Plan

The Planning Commission is a seven member advisory commission, appointed by the City Council and charged with the following duties (City Code Section 2.85.02):

- (a) Hold hearings, review applications, make recommendations, and, where applicable, act upon applications as set forth in the city code;
- (b) Review and make recommendations on variance and appeal applications where such review is required of the Planning Commission by the city code;
- (c) Review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to zoning, subdivision and transportation provisions of the city code;
- (d) Review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and district plans;
- (e) Review and make recommendations on transportation issues including transportation planning, street extensions and modifications, street layout, on street parking, neighborhood traffic plans, transportation grant applications, transit systems, pedestrian ways and bicycle traffic; and
- (f) Other duties as may be assigned by the City Council or by state law.

In 2021, in addition to continued training and review of land use and development applications, the Planning Commission will focus on the following special projects:

1. **Code Amendments:** Review and make recommendations on proposed City Code amendments. Potential Code amendments are listed below in rough priority order recognizing that not all may be completed in 2021 dependent on staffing levels and development activity.
 - a. Create permit process and standards for temporary pandemic response housing (Planning Division);
 - b. Update OHO standards (HRA lead; Planning Division);
 - c. Codify environmental review process requirements (Planning Division);
 - d. Update standards related to self storage facilities (Planning Division);
 - e. Update standards for landscaping and tree preservation (Planning Division);
 - f. Establish best practices and standards for sustainable building and site design (Planning Division and Public Works – Sustainability);
 - g. Update Sign Ordinance (Chapter 19, Article X) (Planning Division);
 - h. Update accessory dwelling unit (ADU) standards (Planning Division);
 - i. Establish code requirements related to energy benchmarking and time of sale energy disclosure (Planning Division and Public Works – Sustainability); and
 - j. Annual miscellaneous issues ordinance (Planning Division).
2. **Plans & Special Projects:** Review and make recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan, District Plans, Small Area Plans and other studies or special projects. Potential plans and specific project in 2021 include:
 - a. Parks Master Plan update (Parks Division lead, Planning Division);
 - b. Lyndale Ave Suburban Retrofit Strategy (Special Projects & Initiatives lead, Planning Division);

- c. CNU Legacy Project - Portland Gateway redevelopment workshop (Planning Division);
 - d. Sustainable building and site standards (PW-Sustainability lead; Planning Division);
 - e. Hotel conversion study (Planning Division);
 - f. Health in All Policies initiative (multiple departments);
 - g. Update commercial redevelopment priorities (HRA lead; Planning Division);
 - h. Industrial impacts study (Planning Division);
 - i. Housing initiatives and data tracking (HRA lead, Planning Division, multiple departments);
 - j. Review multiple family parking standards (Planning Division);
 - k. Review single family and two-family requirements (Planning Division);
3. **Rezoning & Reguiding:** Reviewing and making recommendations on privately or City initiated rezoning and reguiding. No City initiated rezoning or reguiding is planned in 2021, but may be recommended in other plans for implementation in 2021.
4. **Ongoing Initiatives:** Reviewing and making recommendations on long range planning, racial equity initiatives, community engagement initiatives, and other issues as they arise. Also involves participation in workgroups and/or coordination of multi-agency projects (e.g., Mn Valley State Trail, I-494 study).
5. **Transportation and Transit:** Participate in various transportation and transit studies led by Public Works/Engineering staff. Possible 2021 projects include:
- a. Strategic Transportation Plan:
 - i. Scoping (review of peer community approaches to transportation planning; conversation on how to integrate safety, equity, sustainability and public health into transportation planning; funding; policy guidance; project prioritization; other?). Starts in 2021 but extends beyond.
 - b. Bikes and Peds:
 - i. I-35W Parallel Bike Route
 - c. Transit:
 - i. Orange Line Connecting Bus Study (input)
 - ii. Network Next – Arterial BRT Study (update)
 - iii. Riverview Study (update)
 - d. Street Layout:
 - i. Old Shakopee Road and Old Cedar Avenue
 - ii. American Boulevard in Normandale Lake District
 - iii. Lyndale and 86th St.
 - e. Regional Issues:
 - i. Updates if needed (e.g., TH 77 study, 494 project, etc.)