

Bloomington Planning Commission 2016 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 2.98):

- (a) Hold hearings, review applications and make recommendations as set forth in the City Code;
- (b) Act as a board of appeals and adjustments within the terms and conditions set forth in Section 2.98.01 of this Code and Minnesota Statutes Section 462.354, subd. 2, Section 462.357, subd. 6, and Section 462.359, subd. 4;
- (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; and
- (e) Review and make recommendations on transportation issues including transportation planning, street extensions and modifications, street layout and striping, on street parking, neighborhood traffic plans, transportation grant applications, transit systems, pedestrian ways, and bicycle traffic.

In 2016, in addition to continued training and review of land use and development applications, the Planning Commission will focus on the following special projects:

1. Reviewing and making recommendations on proposed City Code amendments. In 2016, potential Code amendments are listed below in rough priority order recognizing that not all may be completed in 2016 dependent on staffing levels and development activity.
 - a. Modify standards for special events (Planning Division);
 - b. Update and adopt Industrial zoning districts and standards, including potential modifications to the IT Zoning District (Planning Division);
 - c. Create standards for restaurant uses, including standards for odor control;
 - d. Create standards for firearms dealers; and
 - e. Annual miscellaneous issues ordinance (Planning Division).
2. Reviewing and making recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan, District Plans, Small Area Plans and related projects. 2016 projects will include:
 - a. Minor update to Normandale Lake District Plan (Planning Division);
 - b. 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update (Planning Division);
 - c. Prepare 2040 demographic forecasts (Planning Division); and
 - d. Assist in update of Bloomington Strategic Plan (project led by City Manager's office).
3. Reviewing and making recommendations on long range planning and alternative transportation issues as they arise. 2016 projects will include:
 - a. Industrial Obsolescence Study (Planning and Assessing Divisions);
 - b. Neighborhood Commercial Centers Study (HRA lead);
 - c. Creative Placemaking initiatives in South Loop district;
 - d. Minnesota River Valley priority projects including: master plans for natural and cultural resources anticipated to commence in 2016 (Planning and Parks and Recreation Divisions);

- e. Update the Memorandum of Understanding with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (Planning and Parks and Recreation Divisions);
- f. Update South Loop Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) (Planning Division);
- g. South Loop Fire Station & Park Concept Alternatives (Public Works lead); and
- h. Assist in update to Bloomington Alternative Transportation Plan – completion anticipated in early 2016 (Parks and Recreation Division and Public Works).