

# Chapter 9: Implementation

## Introduction

A comprehensive plan establishes a framework for a wide variety of public decisions affecting growth, development, community character and public expenditures. Without an effective and cost-efficient implementation program, the county will fail to realize its adopted goals and objectives. This plan should serve as a tool for county elected officials, staff, commissioners and citizens to help make better decisions. An effective approach to implementation of the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan* must focus on the interdependence of all the plan's elements, and the long-term viability of those elements as a connected system.

## Purpose

This chapter summarizes programs and specific actions to implement the objectives, policies, plans and programs contained in Chapters 2 through 8. Implementation tools available to Dane County include:

- Zoning ordinances;
- Official mapping;
- Sign regulation;
- Erosion/Stormwater Control ordinances;
- Historic Preservation Ordinances;
- Site Plan Regulation;
- Design Review Ordinances, and;

- Sanitary codes.

Tables at the end of this chapter identify, where possible, agencies responsible for completion of each task, and whether tasks represent ongoing efforts, new initiatives, or re-evaluations of existing programs.

## Stakeholders

Throughout development of this plan, the three citizen workgroups (ANCR, HED and TUCF) integrated discussion of implementation issues into their recommendations. County department heads, line staff and appointed commissioners not only provided work groups with broad overviews of county administrative functions, but also provided specific comments on draft work group recommendations, to make sure implementation steps are realistic and practicable.

## Survey Results

Overall, county survey respondents favored an active role for Dane County in addressing a wider variety of comprehensive planning issues. Very few respondents thought the county should defer more decisions to either the free market or to local governments. Across all elements, a majority agreed the county should seek to build cooperative relationships between local and state government agencies and private sector service providers.

**How can Dane County make sure its citizens' investment in this comprehensive plan achieves concrete, measurable results?**

- Update ordinances as required by state legislation and mandates.
- Update ordinances to be consistent with this plan.
- Use full spectrum of tools to implement this plan (education, awareness, incentives and regulation.)
- Create metrics to measure levels of goal achievement.
- Coordinate programs, responsibilities and oversight of policies to reduce redundancy and increase effectiveness.

Respondents felt that Dane County should take a more direct approach to:

- **preserve agricultural, natural and water resources by tightening zoning regulations and steering development to already developed areas;**
- **promote recycling and renewable energy;**
- **avoid duplication of community services, and;**
- **require developers to pay a share of community facility costs.**

## Background/Orientation

County implementation strategies generally fall into one of four categories:

- **ordinances and regulations;**
- **land acquisition programs;**
- **public investment and infrastructure, and;**
- **education and incentive programs.**

Work groups and the CPSC selected different combinations of strategies from these categories based on:

- **the extent of existing county authority or capacity;**
- **the political feasibility of particular strategies over others, and;**
- **whether the nature of the issue demands a complex multi-faceted approach.**

This chapter provides an overall summary of implementation steps. Detailed information about particular implementation strategies can be found in the appropriate element chapter.

## Consistency and Integration

Wherever possible, this plan identifies and integrates existing, ongoing planning and other efforts that serve comprehensive planning goals and objectives. Dane County Planning and Development staff and the CPSC have reviewed work group recommendations from each element for both internal consistency and consistency with other county plans and found no conflicts. Where appropriate, similar recommendations across plan chapters have been grouped and integrated into a single, more comprehensive policy statement.

## Goals, Objectives, Policies and Programs

### Measurement of Achievement

#### *Policies and Programs*

1. Direct Department of Planning and Development staff to do the following.
  - A. Work cooperatively with implementing county departments, committees and commissions to develop measurable benchmarks and indicator statistics to evaluate progress toward goals and objectives of the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*.
    - (1) To the extent possible, tie benchmarks to existing data sources, such as the *Regional Trends Report* produced by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission.
  - B. Provide a 5 year Staff Status Report report to the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the CPSC, that:
    - (1) Evaluates success at achieving goals and objectives against adopted indicators and benchmarks;
    - (2) Updates, as necessary, implementation status of individual comprehensive planning policies and program recommendations, and;
    - (3) Suggests areas for future updates to the comprehensive plan.

## Adopting and Updating the Plan:

### *Policies and Programs*

1. Minor Amendments:
  - A. The County Board may amend the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan* at any time, following the same process as for initial Plan adoption under s. 66.1001(4), Wis. Stats.
  - B. Minor amendments may be appropriate throughout the lifecycle of the plan, particularly if new issues emerge or trends change.
  - C. Amendments should typically consist of minor changes to the plan text or maps.
  - D. Large-scale changes or significant shifts in policy should be deferred to the Periodic Update process described below.
2. Periodic Updates:
  - A. Reconvene a CPSC five years after the initial adoption of the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*, and every five years thereafter, to review the comprehensive plan, and suggest any amendments to the Dane County Board of Supervisors.
  - B. As part of its review, the Steering Committee shall:
    - (1) Solicit recommendations for amendments from the general public, using procedures described in the *Public Participation Plan*.
    - (2) Review annual reports on the comprehensive plan produced by the Department of Planning and Development..
    - (3) Evaluate progress against established benchmarks to determine whether goals, objectives, policies, programs or the benchmarks themselves need to be revised.
    - (4) Review goals and objectives to ensure they are still relevant and reflect current community desires.

- (5) Review policies, programs and implementation strategies to eliminate completed tasks and identify new approaches if appropriate.
- (6) Update timetables of actions, as needed.

## Specific Implementation Steps

The following Implementation Summary Tables summarize the recommended policies and programs contained in Chapters 2 through 8 of this plan. For each recommendation, the tables identify certain criteria.

1. The anticipated implementation sequence, defined as follows:
  - Immediate = ASAP
  - Short-term = 1-4 years
  - Mid-term = 5-9 years
  - Long-term = 10+ years
  - Ongoing = Current activities that should continue indefinitely.
2. The county agency, commission, or other entity, or entities, that will implement the program.
3. Any related, independent county planning initiatives.