Kenton County’s communities have operated under the same shared vision for growth and development since 1972 when the County Planning Commission approved it as part of the first county-wide comprehensive plan. Demographics, technology, economic conditions, and community priorities have changed significantly over those four decades; the statement of goals and objectives has not ... until now.

Following public hearings and discussion on June 6 and July 9, members of the Kenton County Planning Commission (KCPC) approved a total rewrite of that 41-year-old vision unanimously. The new proposal is pending now before the County’s 20 local jurisdictions which have 90 days to act on it. If they take no action by October 7—the 90th day—the proposal will be deemed approved according to state law.

This formal action by the KCPC followed an exhaustive effort by its members, staff, and a task force of officials and citizens to update the vision. The group held over 80 public meetings in various formats with citizens, small groups, city and county officials, and organizations to seek input on the community’s concerns. The resulting statement of goals and objectives will serve as the foundation for a new Kenton County comprehensive plan.

As approved and recommended by the County Planning Commission, the new statement of goals and objectives includes four guiding principles — private property rights, public participation, economic considerations, and the necessary relationship between them. Each was the direct result of input from the 80 public meetings.

The goals and related objectives are organized in seven categories — mobility, the economy, healthy communities, natural systems, health, community identity, and governance. As with the guiding principles, these categories came directly from comments received during public forums and subsequent discussions by the task force.

Upon final approval, this statement of goals and objectives will provide guidance in two direct ways. As the foundation for a new comprehensive plan, the statement will guide proceedings before the County Planning Commission, both in terms of substance and as a benchmark for proposed zoning map amendment recommendations. When combined with the comprehensive plan, the statement will also provide direction to local governments when they must act on zoning map recommendations sent forward by the KCPC.

This action by the County Planning Commission paves the way for work on the second phase of the new comprehensive plan. This involves preparing more detailed recommendations for land use, transportation, and community facilities. Staff has collected data over the past year by researching and analyzing local population, housing, economics, community facilities, health, agriculture, transportation, and the environment. State statutes require the comprehensive plan to be based on an analysis of this research.

Crafting the new comprehensive plan is anticipated to take six to nine months and will include opportunities for public involvement.

More information about Direction 2030 is available on the project website and Facebook.

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