
Date: February 12, 2024
To: General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) members
From: General Plan Update Team
Subject: February 15 GPAC Meeting

We look forward to the GPAC meeting on Thursday, February 15, starting at 6:30pm. The meeting will again be held **in-person** at the **Petaluma Community Center in Lucchesi Park**, located at 320 N. McDowell Blvd. This memo is intended to help you prepare for that meeting. Maintaining our focus on land use, we will discuss strategies to create a 15-minute city in which residents can meet most of their essential needs within a 15-minute walk of their home. We will also discuss plans for upcoming community engagement and the GPAC's related leadership roles.

Members of the public in attendance at next week's GPAC meeting will be invited to provide comments during General Public Comment as well as Public Comment on agenda items. Community members are also welcome to email comments for distribution to the GPAC. All written comments should be emailed to Christina Paul (cpaul@cityofpetaluma.org), the staff liaison to the GPAC.

Petaluma as a 15-Minute City

The Vision, Pillars, and Guiding Principles crafted by the GPAC prioritize the evolution of complete, equitable, and walkable neighborhoods through infill development and the diversification of housing options and non-residential development. Likewise, the thrust of the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) recommendations was to create a 15-minute city in which tasks of daily life can be accomplished more safely, comfortably, and easily on foot, bicycle, or transit than by car. The SDAT report is [available at this link](#) and on the "Plan Documents" Page of planpetaluma.org.

The priority of shaping safe, dynamic and walkable neighborhoods is reflected in the land use change alternatives that the GPAC discussed during its November and January meetings. To achieve the community's vision, updated designations on the General Plan Land Use Policy map must also be complemented with land use and other policies.

The February meeting will focus on emerging policy and strategy concepts for establishing Petaluma as a 15-minute city. These concepts were developed from GPAC Working Group recommendations, findings from the existing conditions analysis, the vision and guiding principles, City staff input, and best practices related to the topic.

Mirroring how we introduced concepts for the other General Plan elements in late 2022 and early 2023, to initiate the discussion, the team from Raimi + Associates will present key findings from the GPU existing conditions analysis, related community and GPAC input, and initial goal and policy ideas. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity for the GPAC to ask questions, share preferences through real-time polling, and discuss considerations and priorities. The GPAC input will inform the development of the Land Use Policy Framework.

So that the GPAC has time to review the meeting content in advance of the meeting, we are sharing the presentation as an attachment (PetalumaGPU_GPAC_24_0215). Please pay special attention to the draft policy and strategy ideas that we will discuss in depth on Thursday.

For your reference, we have also updated the Petaluma Land Use Alternatives Web Viewer with refined areas of discussion boundaries and proposed 15-minute centers and future parks:

<https://raimi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4db152b2ace94ea1857a33c0306494d8>.

GPAC Leadership during Community Engagement

In preparation for public review of the Public Draft Policy Frameworks, we also want to devote a portion of the meeting to a discussion of the GPAC's leadership role in community engagement. We will share some initial ideas for how to approach upcoming engagement and related communications, discuss GPAC roles as ambassadors and conveners of working groups, and then invite GPAC input.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Christina Paul (cpaul@cityofpetaluma.org). Thank you!

Attachments:

Attachment A: Agenda

Attachment B: Summary notes from the January 18, 2024 GPAC meeting

Attachment C: Presentation Slides