

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

Report for the Village

10/8/2024

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
Guiding DG: Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects - Comprehensive Plan Draft Vision Follow-Up	Stan Popovich, AICP Director of Community Development

SYNOPSIS

A continued discussion of the Comprehensive Plan's draft vision.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Village Council has identified the Comprehensive Plan and related projects as Priority Action Items for 2023-2025.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

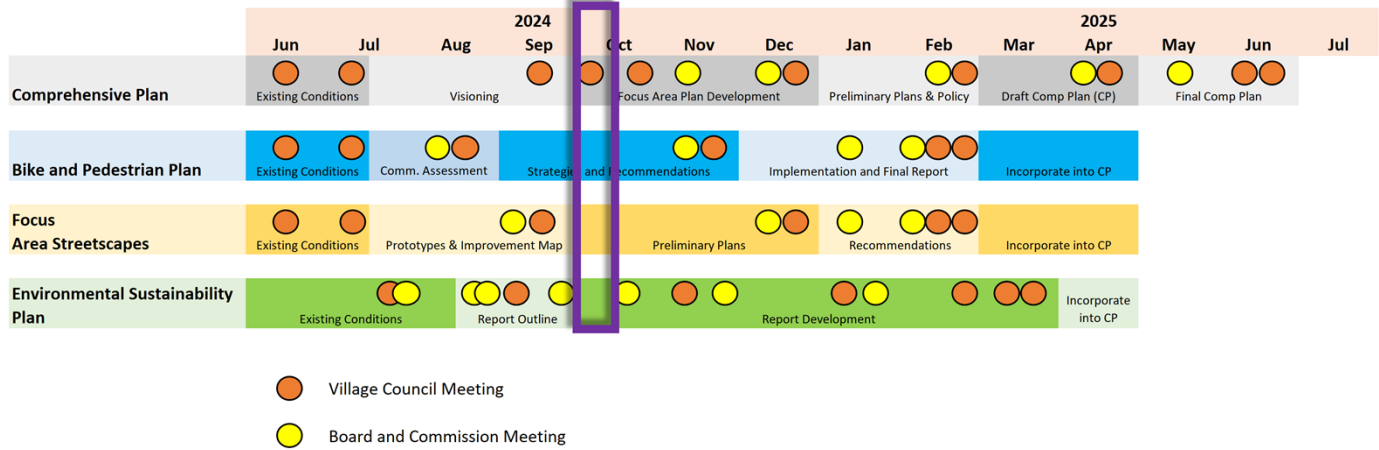
RECOMMENDATION

UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION This item was discussed at the October 1, 2024 Village Council meeting. Based on the October 1 Council discussion, an updated vision statement is attached. Staff requests the Council review and provide final direction on the Guiding DG Comprehensive Plan vision statement.

BACKGROUND

On September 17, 2024, Houseal Lavigne (HL) presented the draft vision statement and preliminary land use framework for the Comprehensive Plan to the Village Council. The Village Council reviewed approximately half of the vision statement and provided HL with comments. HL has incorporated those comments into an updated draft vision statement. Further discussion of the draft goals, key recommendations and a preliminary land use framework will be discussed at a later meeting.

Schedule



ATTACHMENTS

Draft Vision for the Comprehensive Plan

Draft Vision

Since its incorporation in 1873, Downers Grove has grown to become a diverse community of 50,000 people and a model community within Illinois. Over the coming decades, Downers Grove will be renowned for its strong sense of community, cultural diversity and the human connection among its residents. The community will continue its long tradition of excellence, known for its safe, distinctive and well maintained neighborhoods, premier regional and local commercial choices, a lively, vibrant Downtown, commitment to sustainability, accessible and attractive open spaces, safe connectivity for all road users, and an array of quality local government services and amenities.

Downers Grove will be a vibrant and inclusive community where high quality, diverse housing options support residents throughout their lives. The community will foster a sense of place that preserves its rich housing history while embracing a variety of residential architectural styles, housing types and multipurpose development. Downers Grove's neighborhoods will be walkable, welcoming, and reflective of the unique character that define the community.

Downers Grove's business-friendly environment will continue to attract businesses and investment. The attractive commercial areas will continue to improve, thrive, and grow as regionally recognized destinations and notable activity centers. Downers Grove will support new entrepreneurs and existing small businesses alike, both in the Downtown and throughout the community. The community will continue to draw major employers that create a variety of employment opportunities.

Downtown Downers Grove will continue to be the heart of the community – a place where neighbors and visitors gather, and businesses thrive. The success of Downtown will be expanded via a pedestrian and bike friendly connection to Fairview. The Downtown and Fairview will have innovative and sustainable streetscapes, art displays and public spaces resulting in an inviting, visually appealing, and culturally rich destination that attracts residents, visitors, and commuters alike.

The Belmont area will be transformed into the Village's third commuter rail-anchored node – a place for innovation, commerce, and residential amenities. Strategically positioned near I-355, the area will see sustainable and context-sensitive development.

Downers Grove will respect its natural resources by being a more sustainable and livable community that consists of permanently preserved open spaces, native landscaping and a green stormwater management system. Downers Grove will be resilient in the face of intensifying climatological events. Sustainability efforts will be embraced throughout the community. The community will continue to have an abundance of natural recreation areas, walking paths, trails and trees.

Downers Grove will have a high-quality, pedestrian first transportation system that is easily accessible, safe for all users, and aesthetically pleasing. Neighborhoods, commercial corridors,

and local amenities will be connected through an extensive mobility network, providing the opportunity to comfortably walk, bike, drive, or take the train or bus.

Downers Grove will continue to welcome residents, visitors, and new opportunities and will consist of a population diverse in age, race, and income. Downers Grove will be a hub for inclusiveness, acceptance, mutual respect and cultural excellence, fostering a strong relationship with community institutions to promote an excellent quality of life and community pride.

Draft Vision

~~Community Vision Statement for the Comprehensive Plan~~

Since its incorporation in 1873, Downers Grove has grown to become a diverse community of 50,000 people and a model community within Illinois. Over the coming decades, Downers Grove will be renowned for its strong sense of community, cultural diversity and the human connection among its residents. The community will continue its long tradition of excellence, known for its safe, ~~distinctive~~diverse and well maintained neighborhoods, premier regional and local commercial choices, a lively, vibrant Downtown, commitment to sustainability, accessible and attractive open spaces, safe connectivity for all road users, and an array of quality local government services and amenities.

~~Downers Grove will have a variety of housing options to accommodate residents at all stages of life, income levels and abilities.~~ Downers Grove will be a vibrant and inclusive community where high quality, diverse housing options support residents throughout their lives. The community will foster a sense of place that preserves its rich housing history while embracing a variety of residential architectural styles, housing types and ~~multipurpose~~mixed-use development. Downers Grove's neighborhoods will be walkable, welcoming, and reflective of the unique character ~~and diversity~~ that define the community.

Downers Grove's business-friendly environment will continue to attract businesses and investment. The attractive commercial ~~areas and employment corridors and centers~~ will continue to improve, ~~and~~ thrive, ~~and~~. ~~These key areas of the community will~~ grow as regionally recognized destinations and notable activity centers, ~~mixed use areas, and employment hubs~~. Downers Grove will support new entrepreneurs and existing small businesses alike, both in the Downtown and throughout the community. The community will continue to ~~draw~~attract major employers that create a ~~diversified economy with a variety of~~ employment opportunities ~~for all levels of employment~~.

Downtown Downers Grove will continue to be the heart of the community – a place where neighbors and visitors gather, and businesses thrive. The success of Downtown will be expanded via a pedestrian and bike friendly connection to Fairview. The Downtown and Fairview will have innovative and sustainable streetscapes, art displays and public spaces resulting in an inviting, visually appealing, and culturally rich destination that attracts residents, visitors, and commuters alike.

~~The Belmont area will be transformed~~~~The community will invest in and transform the Belmont Station area. Strategically positioned near I-355, the area will see sustainable and context-sensitive development. It will grow~~ into the Village's third commuter rail-anchored node – a place for innovation, commerce, and residential amenities, Strategically positioned near I-355, the area will see sustainable and context-sensitive development, ~~while preserving its industrial heritage~~.

Downers Grove will ~~respect~~~~honor~~ its natural resources by being a more sustainable and livable community that consists of permanently preserved open spaces, native landscaping and a “green” stormwater management system. Downers Grove will be resilient in the face of intensifying climatological events. Sustainability efforts will be embraced throughout the community. The community will continue to have an abundance of~~enjoy~~ natural recreation areas, walking paths, ~~and~~ trails and trees.

Downers Grove will have a high-quality pedestrian first transportation system that is easily accessible, ~~easy to navigate, and~~ safe for all users, and aesthetically pleasing. ~~Neighborhoods-~~ ~~The community will have connected neighborhoods~~, commercial corridors, and local amenities will be connected through an extensive ~~and diverse~~ mobility network, providing the opportunity to comfortably walk, bike, drive, or take the train or bus.

Downers Grove will continue to welcome residents, visitors, and new opportunities and will consist of a population diverse in age, race, and income, ~~and business type~~. Downers Grove will be a hub for inclusiveness, acceptance, mutual respect and cultural excellence, fostering a strong relationship with community institutions to promote an excellent quality of life and community pride.

Community Vision Statement for the Comprehensive Plan

Since its incorporation in 1873, Downers Grove has grown to become a diverse community of 50,000 people and a model community within Illinois. Over the coming decades, Downers Grove will be renowned for its strong sense of community, cultural diversity and the human connection among its residents. The community will continue its long tradition of excellence, known for its safe, diverse and well maintained neighborhoods, premier regional and local commercial choices, a lively, vibrant Downtown, commitment to sustainability, accessible and attractive open spaces, safe connectivity for all road users, and an array of quality local government services and amenities.

Downers Grove will have a variety of housing options to accommodate residents at all stages of life, income levels and abilities. Downers Grove will be a vibrant and inclusive community where high quality, diverse housing options support residents throughout their lives. The community will foster a sense of place that preserves its rich housing history while embracing a variety of residential architectural styles, housing types and mixed-use development. Downers Grove's neighborhoods will be walkable, welcoming, and reflective of the unique character and diversity that define the community.

Downers Grove's business-friendly environment will continue to attract businesses and investment. The attractive commercial and employment corridors and centers will continue to improve and thrive. These key areas of the community will grow as regionally recognized destinations and notable activity centers, mixed use areas, and employment hubs. Downers Grove will support new entrepreneurs and existing small businesses alike, both in the Downtown and throughout the community. The community will continue to attract major employers that create a diversified economy with a variety of opportunities for all levels of employment.

Downtown Downers Grove will continue to be the heart of the community – a place where neighbors and visitors gather, and businesses thrive. The success of Downtown will be expanded via a pedestrian and bike friendly connection to Fairview. The Downtown and Fairview will have innovative and sustainable streetscapes, art displays and public spaces resulting in an inviting, visually appealing, and culturally rich destination that attracts residents, visitors, and commuters alike.

The community will invest in and transform the Belmont Station area. Strategically positioned near I-355, the area will see sustainable and context-sensitive development. It will grow into the Village's third commuter rail-anchored node – a place for innovation, commerce, and residential amenities, while preserving its industrial heritage.

Downers Grove will honor its natural resources by being a more sustainable and livable community that consists of permanently preserved open spaces, native landscaping and a "green" stormwater management system. Downers Grove will be resilient in the face of intensifying climatological events. Sustainability efforts will be embraced throughout the

community. The community will continue to enjoy natural recreation areas, walking paths, and trails.

Downers Grove will have a high-quality transportation system that is easy to navigate, and safe for all users. The community will have connected neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and local amenities through an extensive and diverse mobility network, providing the opportunity to comfortably walk, bike, drive, or take the train or bus.

Downers Grove will continue to welcome residents, visitors, and new opportunities and will consist of a population diverse in age, race, income, and business type. Downers Grove will be a hub for inclusiveness, acceptance, mutual respect and cultural excellence, fostering a strong relationship with community institutions to promote an excellent quality of life and community pride.

Community Vision Statement for the Comprehensive Plan

Since its incorporation in 1873, ~~the Village of~~ Downers Grove has grown to become a diverse community of ~~home to~~ 50,000 people and a model community within Illinois. ~~Over~~As a result of the ~~four Guiding DG plans, over~~ the coming decades, Downers Grove will be renowned for its strong sense of community, cultural diversity and the human connection among its residents. The community ~~the Village~~ will continue its long tradition of excellence, known for its safe, diverse and well-maintained neighborhoods, premier regional and local commercial choices, a lively, vibrant~~strong~~ Downtown, commitment to sustainability, accessible and attractive open spaces, safe connectivity for all road users, and an array of quality local government~~municipal~~ services and amenities.

Downers Grove will ~~have~~provide a variety of housing options ~~price points~~ to accommodate residents at all stages of life, income levels and abilities. ~~Whether it be seniors, young professionals, or new families, anyone will be able to call~~ Downers Grove will be a vibrant and inclusive community where high quality, diverse ~~home. Given the historic nature of the Village, new~~ housing options support residents throughout their lives. The community will foster a sense of place that preserves its rich housing history while embracing a variety of residential ~~reflect the~~ architectural styles, housing types and mixed ~~style and character of the community. Mixed-use development. Downers Grove's neighborhoods will be walkable, welcoming, and reflective of the unique character and diversity that define the community. enable living, working, and playing in the Village's most compact areas, encouraging walkability and neighborhood vitality.~~

Downers Grove's business-friendly environment will continue to attract businesses and investment. The ~~Village will continue to improve its~~ attractive commercial and employment corridors and centers will continue to improve and thrive. These key areas of the community will grow, ~~growing them as~~ regionally recognized destinations and ~~home to~~ notable activity centers, mixed use areas, and employment hubs. Downers Grove will support. ~~The Village will be known for supporting~~ new entrepreneurs and existing small businesses alike, both in the ~~thriving~~ Downtown and throughout the community. The ~~community~~Village will continue to ~~attract~~drive economic development by attracting major employers that create, fostering a diversified economy~~thriving job market with~~ a variety of opportunities for all levels of employment~~living wages and above.~~

Downtown Downers Grove will continue to be the heart of the community – a place where neighbors and visitors gather, and businesses thrive. The success of Downtown will be expanded via a pedestrian and bike friendly connection to Fairview. The Downtown and Fairview will have ~~Focus Area~~ Streetscape projects will catalyze functional, innovative, and sustainable streetscapes, ~~art displays~~ and public spaces resulting in an inviting, visually appealing,~~that encourage community interaction and commerce, improving the pedestrian experience and culturally rich destination that attracts~~ ~~draw of~~ Downtown. Incorporating cultural elements will further create a unique environment, reflect community pride, and attract visitors. Fairview Avenue will be revitalized creating a unique multi-use center that will cater to residents, visitors ~~from neighboring communities,~~ and commuters alike. -

The community will invest in and transform the Belmont Station area. Strategically positioned near I-355, the area will see sustainable and context-sensitive development. It will grow into the Village's third commuter rail-anchored node – a place for innovation, commerce, and residential amenities, while preserving ~~Honoring its industrial heritage.~~

Downers Grove will honor its natural resources by being ~~preserve open spaces and promote sustainability, inspired by the grove of bur oaks that once surrounded the community. Downers Grove will create~~ a more sustainable and livable community that consists of permanently preserved

open spaces, native landscaping and a “~~by investing in green~~” stormwater management system. Downers Grove will be resilient ~~infrastructure and preserving open spaces, as outlined in~~ the face of intensifying climatological events. ~~its Environmental Sustainability~~ efforts will be embraced throughout the community. ~~Plan. The community will continue to enjoy natural recreation areas, and the Village’s many walking paths~~ tracks and trails, ensuring anyone can get active, enjoy the outdoors, and trails.

~~play in~~ Downers Grove will have.

Guided by the Bike and Pedestrian Plan, the Village’s investment in its road network will support a high-quality transportation system that is ~~well-connected~~, easy to navigate, and safe for all users. ~~The community will have connected neighborhoods, improving traffic flow and reducing congestion. The Village will connect its housing stock,~~ commercial corridors, and local amenities through an extensive and diverse mobility network, providing ~~residents the~~ opportunity to comfortably walk, bike, drive, or take the train or bus.

Downers ~~Grove~~ Grove’s community facilities and services will remain a hallmark of the Village. The Village’s community service providers will diligently work to make Downers Grove the most attractive and safest community in the region and bolstering its image as a desirable place to raise a family. A more sustainable Village will see the community incorporate native landscaping and additional and improved stormwater management infrastructure, strengthening Downers Grove’s resiliency in the face of intensifying flood events.

By strengthening its positive reputation, Downers Grove ~~will~~ continue to welcome residents, visitors, and new opportunities and ~~will consist of a population become more~~ diverse in age, race, income, and business type. ~~Downers Grove~~ The Village will be a hub for inclusiveness, acceptance, mutual respect and ~~inclusive~~ cultural excellence, fostering a strong relationship with community institutions to promote an excellent quality of life and ~~reflecting~~ community pride.