Item
Provide a status update on the City of Tulsa Comprehensive Plan, planitulsa.

Background
In 2019, the Tulsa Planning Office began updating the City of Tulsa Comprehensive Plan as it approached 10 years since it was adopted in 2010. This update process has included a great deal of internal research, analysis, and mapping to understand what has changed since plan adoption and what best practices for comprehensive planning processes have emerged in other cities.

After establishing the base understanding for what needed to be updated in each portion of the comprehensive plan, internal teams were established for each of the nine proposed plan chapters. These teams conducted significant subject matter expert engagement with more than 200 interviews, meetings, and discussions to inform policy development for each chapter.

Engagement with the general public followed this subject matter expert engagement, including public meetings about infill development, a series of local homebuilder roundtable discussions, multiple surveys, a substantial series of virtual public meetings, a planitulsa contact email account, and a planitulsa telephone hotline. Across these formats more than 3,000 Tulsans outside of the subject matter expert group have contributed their ideas, concerns, and priorities to the process. This input was the foundation for the development of draft plan content.

By September 21, 2022, all chapters of the plan had moved through the internal review process, which included review by Tulsa Planning Office, INCOG leadership, City Legal, and City department heads. Contributing departments include: Development Services, Engineering Services, Streets & Stormwater, Water & Sewer, Tulsa Police Department, Tulsa Fire Department, Asset Management, Working in Neighborhoods, Municipal Courts, Communications, Mayor’s Office of Resilience and Equity, Tulsa Parks, River Parks Authority, Partner Tulsa, the Housing Policy Director, and the Office of Performance Strategy and Innovation (OPSI). Modifications to the draft plan were made based on the input of these departments.

Beginning on November 18th, a mailer was sent to 196,200 addresses within the city limits notifying residents of the availability of the draft plan in English and Spanish for public review online through the Konveio interface and in-person at 10 libraries across the city. A series of open house meetings was held in conjunction with each of the 9 City Councilors through the months of December, January, and February. The draft plan remained available for review between November 18 and March 6, for a total of more than 16 weeks.

During that timeframe the draft plan was viewed more than 10,000 times on Konveio, more than 1,000 comments were left between Konveio and comment cards left at the libraries and public meetings, and more than 10,000 upvote/downvote interactions were recorded. The recorded presentations of the plan on the Tulsa Planning Office website, recorded in both English and Spanish, were also viewed more than 1,000 times. More than 100 comment emails were sent to planitulsa@incog.org, and more than 50 voicemails were left at the planitulsa phone number.
Next Steps

Since the public review window closed on March 6, staff have been working through the many pieces of input on the plan and determining what changes need to be made to the draft plan to reflect the input of Tulsa residents.

This process includes identifying potential changes and reviewing those with City departments relevant to the implementation of such recommendations. Where the plan identifies departments as “Involved Parties” in the implementation of an action, updates are occurring to reflect the recent reorganization announcement from the Mayor’s Office.

These changes will be documented and made public. The draft plan that was reviewed by the public is still available for review on the Tulsa Planning Office website, as well as the recorded presentation and information about next steps. These can be found at: https://tulsaplanning.org/planitulsa

Once these updates are completed and reviewed, the plan will be finalized, and the process of adoption will begin at TMAPC. This process is anticipated to begin in April or May, based on the pace of review by City departments.

After the adoption by TMAPC, the plan will then be transmitted to the City Council for approval. At that point, staff will begin the steps to update internal processes to reflect the guidance of the new plan. This will include training, updates to the staff report format, and instructions on how to cite the plan to ensure comprehensive plan conformance for a variety of planning-related situations.