

### III. Planning Process

In 2007, City staff proposed consolidating the four existing area plans into one master plan document. One document could be updated more quickly and efficiently than updating four area plans. The consolidation would be the first of two major phases. The first phase consist of: a) combining the substantive elements of all four area plans into one document, b) updating the demographic information, and c) creating new graphic material. The second phase of the process would include the development of new land use recommendations for large sites and major corridors. Staff presented the concept to City Council in early 2007 and received direction to proceed. Extensive public involvement was involved with the creation of all four area plans. Two public hearings are included during the consolidation process.

The Planning Commission assigned the initial review of the draft plan to the Master Plan Revisions Committee. The committee reviewed and edited the document. The plan was then brought before the full Planning Commission for review. A public hearing was held to receive public comment on the draft plan. The Planning Commission approved the plan on May 5, 2009. City Council held a public hearing on the draft plan and approved it on June 15, 2009.

### IV. Vision Statement

The vision statement below provides a framework for the Plan's goals and objectives by describing a community vision for the future of the City of Ann Arbor.

*"The City of Ann Arbor will be a dynamic community, providing a safe and healthy place to live, work and recreate. It will be a place where planning decisions are based, in part, on the interconnectedness of natural, transportation and land use systems. Natural systems, including air and water, natural features, native flora and wildlife habitats, will be improved and protected. It will be a place where the Huron River is a cherished part of the community and a focal point for recreation. Downtown will continue to be a vibrant part of the community that ties all parts of the city together. Transportation systems will include enhanced opportunities for public transit, extensive opportunities for alternative modes of travel and improved management techniques to reduce the impact of traffic on existing streets and neighborhoods. Land use systems will be compatible and complementary, and will include residential, recreational, commercial, office, educational, institutional and industrial uses, which will provide extensive choices in housing (including low cost housing), shopping, employment and recreational activities. Historically significant buildings and neighborhoods will be preserved. The quality of life in Ann Arbor will be characterized by its diversity, beauty, vibrancy and livability and ultimately will depend upon the positive interaction of these systems."*

# COMMUNITY VISION

## INNOVATE, SUSTAIN, CONNECT

A vision represents a desired future as defined by the community. Three major themes of *Plan Fort Collins* provide direction for the vision for the next 25 years and beyond: **Innovate, Sustain, and Connect.**

### Innovate

The citizens of Fort Collins wish to advance their future in a positive and vital way, and City government, educational, and other institutions, as well as the private sector, have always been willing to lead and serve as models for other communities. Our vision reflects our desire to remain innovative, world-class leaders.

### Sustain

The basic tenets of sustainability serve as the guiding principles for our vision and act as a foundation underpinning all components of each plan. We find these tenets to be:

- A focus on the future with a long-term perspective (an outlook for the generations to come).
- An understanding that the community is bound by the limits of the natural world and its resources.
- A systems perspective that recognizes the interdependent economic, human, and environmental implications of policies, decisions, and outcomes.
- A mechanism for continuous improvement through monitoring and future plan updates.

### Connect

Being a “connected community” extends beyond the physical connections implied by our transportation system. It encompasses a community that is connected technologically and socially as well. Our vision embraces a City that provides safe and efficient facilities for all modes of travel. It also encourages expansion of technological infrastructure to serve and connect the community, increasing access to information and fostering better communication between residents, businesses, institutions, and local government. Finally, our vision promotes social connectivity through ongoing support of community organizations and volunteerism and by encouraging development patterns and creating gathering places that attract people and promote social interaction.



## VISION FOR A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY

Through innovation, sustainability, and connections the City of Fort Collins aspires to create a vibrant, world-class community. The City of Fort Collins is committed to providing leadership and exceptional service to citizens, but recognizes that the entire community must be involved to achieve the vision.

## WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BECOME A WORLD-CLASS CITY?

### Quality of Place

The new reality is that home or business location is a real choice and cities that wish to thrive will have to be attractive places for people to live and work. Fort Collins already excels in meeting this requirement, but will have to continue to do so if it is to be a world-class city.

### Great Facilities and Institutions

The features that attract people to a community can be created, not just inherited. While Fort Collins has been blessed with many inherent features of the city such as its climate, setting, and natural resources, other critical features have been “created” – the parks and open space system, Downtown amenities, a thriving arts and culture scene, high-caliber university, and an innovative business climate.

### An Educated, Creative Workforce

Fort Collins has been fortunate to attract and retain a high-quality, creative workforce with a diverse set of skills. It must continue to do so in order to meet the challenges of the future through continuing and enhancing its strong partnerships with CSU, Front Range Community College, Poudre and Thompson Valley School Districts, and other educational institutions throughout the region and state.

### Sense of Community

The people in Fort Collins are known to be neighborly, friendly, and deeply committed to making their community a desirable place to live, work, visit, and raise a family. This strong sense of community sets Fort Collins apart from many other places, and will remain an important and desirable quality in the future.



## **VISION BY TOPIC AREA**

The objectives on the following pages help to define and unify the vision for a world-class community under the seven topic areas of *Plan Fort Collins*.

### **ECONOMIC HEALTH VISION**



#### **A healthy and resilient economy:**

- Diverse jobs that enable citizens and businesses to thrive.
- Reflects the values of our unique community in a changing world.
- An innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial atmosphere.
- Strong partnerships and collaboration with the private sector, educational institutions, and other organizations.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH VISION**



#### **A healthy and sustainable environment:**

- Conservation of resources including energy, water, wildlife, habitat, biodiversity, and other natural resources.
- Responsible stewardship for open lands and natural areas.
- A comprehensive and connected system of open lands.
- Integration of renewable energy and new technologies for the electric grid.
- Continuous improvements in air quality.
- Investment to meet the goals of the climate action plan and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Solid waste reduction and diversion and hazardous materials management.
- Healthy urban watersheds and ongoing best-practices floodplain management.
- A lasting water supply.
- Meeting or exceeding standards for stream water quality, drinking water quality, and water reclamation.
- Local and regional cooperation, coordination, and leadership on environmental matters.

## COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY VISION



### A high quality built environment:

- A compact pattern of development within a well-defined community boundary.
- Adequate public facilities, services, and infrastructure to serve existing development and new growth.
- Opportunities for redevelopment, revitalization, and growth in targeted areas.
- Cohesive, distinct, vibrant, safe, and attractive neighborhoods.
- Vital and appealing activity centers and destinations throughout the city.
- Quality and accessible housing options for all household types and income levels.
- Preservation and enhancement of historic resources.
- Distinctive and attractive community image, design, and identity.
- Nature visible and accessible in the city.

## SAFETY AND WELLNESS VISION



### A safe and healthy community:

- A safe, non-threatening city in which to live, work, learn, and play.
- Opportunities to lead active and healthy lifestyles.
- Access to healthy, locally grown or produced food.



## CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION VISION



### A diverse range of cultural and recreational options:

- A recognized destination for arts and culture.
- Arts and creativity integrated into community life and economic health.
- An interconnected and wide network of parks and recreational facilities.
- Multi-purpose and new types of facilities to meet the needs of a changing community.

## HIGH PERFORMING COMMUNITY VISION



### A city of choice:

- A collaborative and community-based approach to problem solving.
- Inclusive and accessible to all people.
- Effective and efficient local governance where all voices are valued.
- Fiscal sustainability and transparency in the City organization.
- World-class communications technology.

## TRANSPORTATION VISION



### A connected community:

- Land use and transportation will be fully integrated, both locally and regionally, to create an affordable, accessible, low energy, low impact, and efficient transportation system.
- Multiple modes of safe, affordable, easy, and convenient travel will ensure mobility for people of all ages and abilities. Multiple travel modes will make it easy to choose transportation options that support a healthy lifestyle. Innovative travel modes will be accommodated through flexibility in the transportation system.
- The transportation system will provide safe, reliable, convenient, and effective vehicular mobility and access.
- Travel infrastructure will be high quality and recognized as world-class by residents, visitors, and peers.
- People will be aware of the impact that their travel choices have on the transportation system, the environment, and the community. They will have travel options to choose that help Fort Collins achieve its overall vision of being a world-class community.

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S VISION

Hundreds of participants provided the basic input used by the City Plan Civic Alliance and City staff to develop South Bend's vision statement, *Envision South Bend in 2025* . . . The vision statement is a guiding element of this comprehensive plan and has been used to develop its Goals, Objectives, and Policies.

South Bend Common Council adopted the vision statement in May 2004.

# Envision South Bend in 2025 . . .

South Bend is a vibrant, caring city. Residents and government celebrate our diversity and vitality. Together, we nurture our educational, social, cultural, natural, human, and economic resources.

*Our City Government dedicates itself to civic engagement* with open, effective dialogue among citizens and governing bodies.

*We enjoy a high quality of life* enriched through our achievements of ethnic and racial harmony, volunteerism, philanthropy, and just and equal access to economic and social opportunities.

*We are a center of learning.* Our excellent schools and world-class institutions of higher education, engaged with the community, prepare our youth to compete in the 21st century.

*We are a community that fosters entrepreneurship,* and attracts and retains competitive businesses by continually investing in our work force and technology.

*We are a city of safe and unique neighborhoods* with diverse housing choices. We have a built environment that embraces our historic heritage while facilitating progressive design and land use, utilizing modern infrastructure.

*We have a dynamic downtown* that is a hub for housing, commerce and government, and a regional destination for culture, arts, and entertainment.

*We have an excellent transportation system* that offers alternative modes of transport, provides accessibility throughout the community, values pedestrians, and is integrated locally and regionally.

*We are proud stewards of the natural environment,* preserving the St. Joseph River as a valuable resource and cherishing our parks and plentiful green spaces.