

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT**

**For Planning Commission Meeting of September 18, 2012**

**SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Sustainability Framework Element**

### **PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION**

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Mayor and City Council authorize distribution of the draft Sustainability Framework to adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA-33 of 2008) and Chapter 8 of the Ann Arbor City Code of Ordinances.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission **approve** the motion recommending that the Mayor and City Council authorize distribution of the draft Sustainability Framework for review and comment to adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders, as required by state law, and to the general public.

### **STAFF REPORT**

On July 2, 2012 City Council passed a resolution directing the City Planning Commission to initiate adoption of the 16 sustainability goals developed for the Sustainability Framework as an amendment to the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan. Prior to this action, in May and June of 2012, the City Planning Commission and five other city boards and commissions unanimously passed resolutions recommending that City Council initiate the process to adopt these goals as part of the Master Plan.

Attached is the draft Sustainability Framework element, which includes the 16 overarching sustainability goals, in addition to brief narratives that further describe the goals and clarify their relationship with the rest of the City Master Plan. The Planning Commission will have an opportunity to discuss the content of the plan at greater length after comments have been received from adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders.

One of the first steps in a master plan amendment process is City Council's authorization to distribute the proposed amendment for public comment. The State Planning Enabling Act requires that a municipality must distribute the document to adjoining jurisdictions and other stakeholders to provide the opportunity for comment. Once the draft amendment has been distributed, adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders have 42 days in which to submit their comments.

The following organizations will be asked to comment on the draft plan:

Planning Agencies

- Ann Arbor Township Planning Commission
- Barton Hills Village Long-Range Planning Committee
- Pittsfield Township Planning Commission
- Scio Township Planning Commission
- Lodi Township Planning Commission
- Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Public Utilities

- DTE Energy Services (electricity and gas)
- Norfolk-Southern Railroad

Other Government Entities

- Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
- University of Michigan (non-mandated)
- Ann Arbor Public Schools/Board of Education (non-mandated)

Once comments have been received and reviewed, a public hearing will be scheduled at the Planning Commission. This public hearing is tentatively targeted for December 2012. Prior to the public hearing, notice will be provided to all organizations registered with the Planning & Development Services Unit.

Prepared by Jill Thacher  
Reviewed by Wendy Rampson  
Mg09/12/2012

Attachment: September 14, 2012 Draft Sustainability Framework