Comprehensive Planning

What is Comprehensive Planning?
Comprehensive Planning is a process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. The outcome of comprehensive planning is the comprehensive plan which acts as a statement of what a community wants to become and is a collection of principles based on community defined vision.

Typically, a comprehensive plan will provide general policy guidelines regarding transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, economic development and housing priorities meant to be considered within a long term timeframe. Therefore, comprehensive plans deal more with concepts patterns and visions than specific rules and ordinances. Region Five Development Commission’s delivery of comprehensive planning is done with an intentional focus on the inclusion of residents that are not typically part of municipal planning processes. We incorporate a diverse and well-rounded group of people to make up the planning team.

How does R5DC assist in Comprehensive Planning?
The Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) has successfully completed numerous comprehensive plans for communities throughout the region, typically ranging in size from 300 people to over 13,000.

R5DC assists local units of governments in all aspects of comprehensive planning by:
- Working with elected city officials, city staff and commissions to understand goals and outcomes
- Conducting public workshops and planning meetings
- Developing a local planning task force
- Facilitating the local planning task force meetings
- Compiling and updating most current demographic data
- Drafting comprehensive plan document
- Launching public input and informational meetings to ensure an equitable process
- Assisting elected officials and city staff regarding adoption and recording the final approved plan
What is Prioritized Implementation Planning?
Prioritized Implementation planning is a unique and intentional process designed to turn the goals, objectives, and strategies identified in a community’s existing comprehensive plan into actionable priorities.

Prioritized Implementation Planning serves a two-fold purpose:
1. It develops a strategic framework that can assist local officials bridge the gap between planning and implementation.
2. It can be used as a measuring stick for communities to track their progress in implementing the goals, objectives and strategies laid out in their existing comprehensive plan.

How does R5DC assist in Prioritized Implementation Planning?
R5DC staff members facilitate monthly meetings and draw on their years of experience and expertise to assist clients with their tailored prioritized implementation plan. The process can range from six months to one year depending on the size and the needs of each city or community. Initially, the implementation plan and key stakeholders are defined with funding, action steps, and timelines are also established during the process. The final outcome is for the city to have implemented strategies within their comprehensive plan and to have created the infrastructure to autonomously continue their success.

There are many factors and components to consider and Region Five Development Commission is here to help!