



Our Missoula Growth Policy: 5-Year Review

APPENDIX E: Memo to Planning Board

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The following memo was delivered to Planning Board on December 8th, 2020, detailing reasons for delay of the 5-Year Review of the Growth Policy, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missoula Consolidated Planning Board

FROM: Tom Zavitz, Senior Planner, Community Planning, Development, and Innovation

DATE: December 8, 2020

RE: Our Missoula City Growth Policy 2035, 5-Year Update

The timeline for the 5-year update of the Our Missoula City Growth Policy has been delayed due to the COVID-19 health emergency with public kickoff now projected to occur summer 2021 if circumstances allow. The project team will use the intervening time to focus on tasks associated with an administrative review, which will also include updating the data in the “Community Profile” report.

A goal of the Growth Policy update is to comply with a commitment for review, consistent with State Law and the current growth policy. The comprehensive update includes engagement and outreach with the community as a means of reflecting public response to changing conditions and emerging issues. During the pandemic, attempts by the City to actively engage and foster public participation have been innovative and varied, but ultimately the surging infection rates make it difficult to expect that a robust level of community-wide public engagement for a comprehensive Growth Policy review can be achieved.

The Growth Policy has been in place for 4+ years during which time the City has seen a steady and continued rise in development accompanied by increasing housing affordability issues. City-wide plans and policies addressing housing, climate change, and transportation have also been adopted and work is underway to help focus on ways to address social equity issues in our community. Additionally, as you may remember, City staff conducted a review of the prioritized action items two years ago and we will update that review in this first phase as well.

This administrative review is a first phase that will eventually lead to the more comprehensive update of the Growth Policy itself within the next few years. Conducting this administrative review will help to determine the scope and extent of a more comprehensive update to the



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Growth Policy as public health conditions allow. We will update the City Council and Planning Board on our administrative review in the spring of 2021.

The following is a list of administrative tasks that we will focus on:

- Update Community Profile
- Technical Assessment of land uses
- Review of prioritized action items
- Develop Growth Policy User Guide
- Evaluate the role of the Our Missoula Development Guide within the Growth Policy
- Research viability of enhanced web presence for education and tracking of implementation

Thank you for your interest and patience, and please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Zavitz
Senior Planner
Missoula Community Planning, Development, and Innovation
City of Missoula