

REASONS FOR UPDATING THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

There are two primary reasons for updating the City’s comprehensive plan. These are:

1. To make sure that the City’s comprehensive plan remains relevant and reflects the City’s vision by taking account of developments and/or changes in the community that require adjustments.;
2. To meet the requirements of the state’s Metropolitan Land Planning Act (MLPA), which is administered by the Metropolitan Council.

While the City has an obligation to meet the MLPA requirements, by far the most important reason for regularly updating the City’s comprehensive plan is the first reason.

In terms of population growth in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Shakopee added the largest number of people from the year 2000 to 2007, and has been among the fastest growing cities in the fastest growing county in the region for a number of years. Since the mid-1990’s, Shakopee has been among the leading communities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area in residential building activity. While building activity slowed in 2006 and 2007, with the potential supply of developable land, it is reasonable to assume that Shakopee will continue to grow at a significant rate for several years.

As the City moves forward with this current round of comprehensive planning, it will be dealing several significant, and in some cases, very unique challenges. These include:

1. *The loss of privately developable land to acquisition by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC).*

It is currently estimated that the SMSC owns in fee, or occupies in trust, about 1,000 acres of land in Shakopee. The vast majority of this land is in the central/south-central areas of Shakopee. The majority of sanitary sewer capacity available for development in the City is found in the Prior Lake Interceptor. However, given the SMSC’s intent to eventually place any lands it owns in trust, and their intent to serve their lands through their own sewage treatment plant, much of this capacity for development purposes is lost to the City of Shakopee. Thus, in order to accommodate the City’s projected growth, Shakopee will need to look to adjacent Jackson and Louisville Township. Because sanitary sewer capacity in the Shakopee-Chaska Interceptor, the City will need to rely on the Metropolitan Council to put in place the additional sewer infrastructure and capacity needed.

2. *Planning for a new Minnesota River connection between TH 212 and TH 169.*

MNDOT is in the process of completing a Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) for a new bridge to replace the current TH 41 river crossing through downtown Chaska. With the completion of the Tier I process, it is expected that one of the three corridors identified and studied will be chosen for the new

connection. The problem faced by Shakopee (and other communities) is that development decisions affecting these corridors are already being made, and because the likely timeframe for funding and the Tier II EIS process is so long, development will have made implementing a new bridge much more difficult. Since the eastern and central corridors are in areas of the adjacent townships that may be subject to annexation in the future, it is important to understand the impacts on development potential in these areas.

3. *Because the Shakopee Public Utilities Commission (SPUC) owns and operates the water supply system that serves the City, water supply planning is more complicated than it is in many communities.*

POPULATION, HOUSEHOLD AND EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS:

For the 2030 timeframe that is required to be addressed by this iteration of the City’s comprehensive plan, the City has largely relied on and used the Metropolitan Council projections set forth below. The one projection for which the City is seeking consideration of an amendment is the 2030 employment projection. The reasons for this request are as follows;

- *In 2008, Shakopee staff was informed that the City had already exceeded the 2010 employment projection of 17,800. This logically suggests to the City that the Metropolitan Council’s 2030 employment projection (which represents only a 28% increase in employment over 20 years) is overly pessimistic.*
- *The Metropolitan Council’s employment projections for some TAZs in the City seem very light in view of the guided land uses. An example is TAZ 1070 in the area of the Southbridge Crossings and Southbridge Crossings East commercial developments. Only 320 jobs are projected in this TAZ.*
- *Consistent with SCALE initiatives, Shakopee’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan aims to employ up to 50% of its residents in the City or Scott County, as opposed to about 32% currently.*

It is important to note that these projections are based on the current land area within the City of Shakopee, and do not address the possibility of annexation of additional township areas, or the development of township areas at urban densities.

			Revised Development Framework		
	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Population	11,739	20,568	39,500	48,500	52,000
Households	4,163	7,540	15,000	19,500	21,500
Employment	8,500	12,476	17,800*	21,300	31,021**

*n 2008 Metropolitan Council staff had indicated to Shakopee planning staff that the City had already exceeded the 2010 employment projection.

**The City is requesting amendment of the 2030 employment forecast

These projections were used in the development of the Land Use, Transportation, Sanitary Sewer, Housing, and Water Supply chapters.

In addition, however, the City of Shakopee chose to take an additional longer range look at population, household and employment potential including adjacent areas in Jackson and Louisville Township. This exercise is not required under the MLPA, but its purpose is to give the City, the townships and Scott County some additional basis for post 2030 planning. Subsequent to the City undertaking this exercise, Scott County has included a 2050 scenario in its analysis in its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update. The results of looking at these longer range projections are most in evidence in the Land Use, Transportation, Sanitary Sewer, and Water Supply Plan. The pace at which annexation or urban style development might take place in Jackson and Louisville Townships is dependent on a number of factors, and so is difficult to predict. That is why, as noted again in each of these chapters, the City is not seeking Metropolitan Council review and/or approval of those portions of this Comprehensive Plan Update that deals with those long-range projections.

ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT:

The current round of MLPA planning began with the Metropolitan Council's issuance of a "System Statement" for each community in the seven county Metropolitan Area. The regional systems that must be addressed in the comprehensive plan update are as follows;

- Transportation (including airports);
- Wastewater Treatment (Sanitary Sewers);
- Parks and open space;

In addition, the City's comprehensive plan includes the following elements;

- Land use;
- Housing;
- Surface water management;
- Water supply planning;
- Solar access protection;
- Economic Development;
- The City's capital improvements program (CIP).