

**CHASKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE  
JOINT CC / PC WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 25, 2009  
MEETING NOTES**

The City Council and Planning Commission met for a joint work session, facilitated by City Staff, to discuss the proposed updates to the Comprehensive Plan on February 25, 2009. This meeting is a follow-up to the joint work session held last June to kick-off the Comprehensive Plan Update project.

Following are the meeting notes to capture the main areas of discussion:

- A. Is the term “sustainable” strong enough to describe the City’s future vision for downtown?
- B. Transportation, including traffic congestion and transit, will continue to be major challenges for the City, both to/from Chaska and within Chaska.
- C. Any opportunities for the City or SouthWest Transit to receive transit funding as part of the Federal economic stimulus package?
- D. Barriers, actual and perceived, between upper and lower Chaska and how to address these barriers with the Commitment to Community project.
- E. Discussion about whether commercial development along the new Highway 212 corridor was considered and would have benefited the City, instead of the primarily residential development that occurred.
- F. A concern about the Mixed Use land use designation for the area north of Chaska Commons, including the Highland Shores site. The City may not want to allow the possibility of future commercial development on the west side of Highway 41 when it really wants development of commercial on the east side. Also concerns about whether the Mixed Use land use designation is aligned with the zoning for this area.
- G. Questions about how the City can ensure that it has the right mix of land uses. For example, how might the City guide commercial land use so as to prevent the occurrence of vacant retail buildings?
- H. A concern about the unattractive visual appearance of the Highway 41 corridor within Chaska and the potential for addressing this issue somewhere within the Comprehensive Plan.
- I. Also a concern about Highway 41 in the historic downtown area and the potential for guiding future improvements in downtown to be more compatible in design, e.g. building awnings.
- J. Discussion about the New Minnesota River Bridge Crossing Study, which could have major negative impacts on downtown Chaska, and the possibility for the City to support a “No-Build” alternative.
- K. A concern about the Greenbelt Concept and the potential for land “takings” issues.
- L. Discussion about what the City’s future goals should be for creating affordable housing.
- M. Question about ways that the mix of lifecycle housing in Chaska could be measured, e.g. size, level of maintenance, value, etc.
- N. Suggestions that downtown Chaska needs a stronger identity and vision to attract renewed vitality and jobs.
- O. East Creek Transit Station is a well-used park & ride facility and seems to be attracting additional shopping at the Chaska Commons/SuperTarget shopping area.

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- P. Suggestion that the City consider building a park & ride transit station in downtown that could attract more shoppers downtown.
- Q. Question about needed improvements to water quality in the City's lakes and the river. The City's Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) already addresses this issue directly.
- R. Question about establishing a tree policy within the City, including tree preservation, suitable trees for the soils, and reforestation.