



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2016  
TO: Chairperson Hvidsten, Members of the Planning Commission, Administrator Kreft  
FROM: Cynthia Smith Strack, Community Development Director  
RE: Item 5.2 Destination Belle Plaine 2040 – Big Picture

### REQUEST SUMMARY:

**PZ Task:** Input on three questions and thumbs up/down on plan outcomes, management principles, and major themes.

**Discussion Overview:** We will review the attached presentation at the PC meeting. Input is kindly requested.

# Destination Belle Plaine 2040

Big Picture Items

# Input Sought

- Historical perspective: who we were, who we are, who we will be
- Answer this question: what makes Belle Plaine a special place?
- Vision statement preferences: samples and preferences
- Adequacy of outcomes sought, management principles, and major themes

# Historical Perspective

- If we began as: a close-knit settlement in picturesque natural prairie lands and river bluffs.
- And we are: a growing rural center midway between Minneapolis and Mankato which has retained tangible reminders of our natural setting, history, and cultural roots.
- What we will be. . . ?

# Self Perspective

- What makes Belle Plaine a special place?
  - Most city websites tout the 'uniqueness' of place, community 'character', and sense of 'place'. Small town atmosphere, downtown core, variety of business, nice parks/trails, and friendly people are common themes.
  - But what sets Belle Plaine apart from **Albertville, Arden Hills, Cambridge, Corcoran, Falcon Heights, Isanti, Jordan, Lake Elmo, Medina, Minnestrista, Mound, Oak Grove, Orono, Shorewood, Spring Lake park, St. Anthony, St. Francis, St. Paul Park, Victoria, or Wyoming?**

# Vision Statement

- Here are four sample vision statements based on other Comprehensive Plans; does one particularly resonate? If not what would you suggest as an alternative?
  1. We will be a unique, cohesive, and vibrant community, successfully uniting and integrating our downtown core, established neighborhoods, and future developments. Supported by a high quality of life and enduring economic stability, Belle Plaine will be the destination for people and businesses that seek a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Our residents will continue to thrive, surrounded by rich history, arts and culture, lifelong learning opportunities, a healthy environment, and an active lifestyle.
  2. A City filled with many neighborhoods with unique character, safe parks, bustling commercial centers, a thriving urban downtown, and excellent employment opportunities
  3. The fundamental thing we want Belle Plaine to both be and become is a city that is livable for all its people. A city in which they can learn, move about, work, and play in safety, comfort, with pleasure and pride, and in a spirit of openness and opportunity. It is essential that quality of life for all the people of Belle Plaine be perceived as this Plan's central purpose
  4. Belle Plaine in 2040 is a thriving, sustainable City, meeting the community's needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Our community is recognized for its quality of life, exceptional schools, and excellent local government. Our multigenerational neighborhoods, healthy natural resources, vibrant mixed use shopping, employment districts, and diverse services and activities are accessible to all.

# Review Outcomes Proposed

Destination Belle Plaine 2040 Outcomes	
	<p><b>Stewardship</b> Belle Plaine believes that we, the community, are the managers of what our ancestors trusted to us and the protectors of that which future generations will inherit. We define stewardship as the responsible planning and managing of finite resources, including the environment, natural resources, public financial resources, community health &amp; safety, property, public infrastructure, and information.</p>
	<p><b>Long-term Economic Prosperity</b> Belle Plaine believes every community member should find our City a distinct, flourishing place open to business opportunities for all with an abundance of available jobs, solid infrastructure, and a variety of places to live. We define economic prosperity as a general feeling of successful economic well-being.</p>
	<p><b>Social Equity</b> Belle Plaine believes in building a rightful and just City where every resident, employee, and business has access to resources, opportunities, and outcomes that improve quality of life and enable them to reach their full potential. We define social equity as the fair, just, and equitable management of all institutions serving the public; the fair and equitable distribution of public services; the fair and equitable implementation of public policy; and, the commitment to promote fairness, justice, and equity in the formation of public policy.</p>
	<p><b>Livability</b> Belle Plaine believes access to a high quality of life is an indispensable right of every community member and the very foundation of a healthy local economy. We believe livability doesn't come about by chance, but, rather is intentionally created through a concerted community effort and investment. We also believe people are increasingly choosing where they want to live, especially in areas that offer attractive amenities and lifestyles, and then looking for jobs there. Professionals are highly mobile and increasingly able to live where they want and work from remote locations. Millennials are increasingly choosing high-amenity places that have rich culture, natural beauty, abundant recreation, sufficient walkability, and transit options. We define livability as factors adding up to the City's quality of life including but not limited to: access to the built and natural environments; access to a variety of housing options; access to a variety of places through a variety of means from walking to transit; access to superior educational systems; and access to cultural, entertainment, and recreation possibilities.</p>
	<p><b>Sustainability</b> Belle Plaine believes our choices and actions today are consequential and will permanently impact choices and actions available in the future. We believe sustainable development is more of a necessity than a choice. We define sustainability as promoting development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p>

Outcomes Acceptable?

# Review Principles Proposed

Destination Belle Plaine 2040 Managing Principles	
i	<p><b>Integration</b> Efficient public resource use and strategic public investment can be maximized through a deliberate and purposefully integrated approach to project delivery and public service. The intentional combining of related activities, strategic deployment of resources, and seamless coordination between multiple stakeholders, organizations, and systems streamlines operations and delivers multiple benefits at reduced costs.</p>
c	<p><b>Collaboration</b> Working together across multiple departments, committees, and jurisdictions promotes stakeholder and project accountability, innovation, and increased efficiency. Resource limitations, increasing demand for services, and complex community expectations create multifaceted challenges and opportunities that are simply best addressed collaboratively as opposed to going it alone. Destination Belle Plaine 2040 is a collaborative effort in the present as it is being developed and in the future as it is being implemented.</p>
a	<p><b>Accountability</b> Destination Belle Plaine 2040 contains measures to promote accountability across multiple plan elements by, for and to multiple stakeholders. The City is committed to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies, practices, and plans created to achieve shared outcomes. The City accepts responsibility for actions resulting from Destination Belle Plaine 2040 and is committed to adjusting course as needed to improve delivery of outcomes and/or affect change.</p>

Principles Acceptable?

# Review Major Themes Proposed

<b>Destination Belle Plaine 2040 Major Themes</b>	
	<b>Balancing good places and new spaces</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Planned land use patterns with systems integration: transportation, quality of life, water resources, housing choice, and economic strength and competitiveness</li><li>Purposeful management of community appearance and design</li><li>Assure complete housing choices</li><li>Preserve and respect the old while inviting new</li><li>Encourage revitalization, reuse, infill, and redevelopment</li><li>Protect and preserve natural and fiscal resources</li></ul>
	<b>Creating a prosperous and resilient City</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Achieve equitable economic vitality for the common good of all</li><li>Prepare for, adapt, and rally in the face of adversity</li><li>Confront challenging, complex issues and have the courage to collectively take responsibility for our place and future generations</li><li>Understand, acknowledge, and act on the interrelatedness of local systems: land use, physical resources, quality of life amenities, transportation, housing, economic development, and fiscal resource realities</li><li>Understand, acknowledge, and act on global issues: climate change, security threats, redefined economy, and information-based society</li><li>Be open to fundamental transformation in instances where adapting is not sufficient</li></ul>
	<b>Creating a complete City</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enhance quality of life for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes through integrated planning solutions grounded in complete streets, complete housing, and complete infrastructure</li><li>Commit to community health and safety for all</li><li>Champion, nurture, and support ample variety in places at which to shop, work, create, educate, and innovate</li><li>Respect, sustain, and appreciate our natural resources, environment, and special places</li><li>Treasure, preserve, and protect historically significant sites, structures, assets, stories, and intangibles</li></ul>
	<b>Insist on being an authentic City that is genuinely a great place</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inspire emotional connections to public places and spaces</li><li>Optimize operational efficiency and effectively complete the right tasks at the right times</li><li>Reflect on and learn from successes and disappointments</li><li>Truly understand, appreciate, and respect differences</li><li>Be open to change; be open to new</li><li>Provide responsive governance and regional leadership</li></ul>

Major Themes Acceptable?

# Destination Belle Plaine 2040 Outcomes



## Stewardship

Belle Plaine believes that we, the community, are the managers of what our ancestors trusted to us and the protectors of that which future generations will inherit. We define stewardship as the responsible planning and managing of finite resources, including the environment, natural resources, public financial resources, community health & safety, property, public infrastructure, and information.



## Long-term Economic Prosperity

Belle Plaine believes every community member should find our City a distinct, flourishing place open to business opportunities for all with an abundance of available jobs, solid infrastructure, and a variety of places to live. We define economic prosperity as a general feeling of successful economic well-being.



## Social Equity

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## Livability

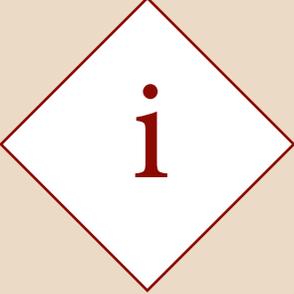
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## Sustainability

Belle Plaine believes our choices and actions today are consequential and will permanently impact choices and actions available in the future. We believe sustainable development is more of a necessity than a choice. We define sustainability as promoting development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

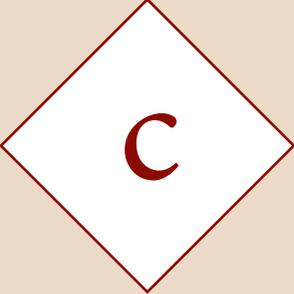
# Destination Belle Plaine 2040 Managing Principles



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## **Integration**

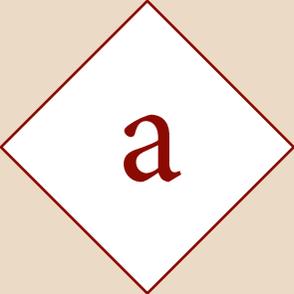
Efficient public resource use and strategic public investment can be maximized through a deliberate and purposefully integrated approach to project delivery and public service. The intentional combining of related activities, strategic deployment of resources, and seamless coordination between multiple stakeholders, organizations, and systems streamlines operations and delivers multiple benefits at reduced costs.



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# Destination Belle Plaine 2040 Major Themes



## Balancing good places and new spaces

- ▣ Planned land use patterns with systems integration: transportation, quality of life, water resources, housing choice, and economic strength and competitiveness
- ▣ Purposeful management of community appearance and design
- ▣ Assure complete housing choices
- ▣ Preserve and respect the old while inviting new
- ▣ Encourage revitalization, reuse, infill, and redevelopment
- ▣ Protect and preserve natural and fiscal resources



## Creating a prosperous and resilient City

- ▣ Achieve equitable economic vitality for the common good of all
- ▣ Prepare for, adapt, and rally in the face of adversity
- ▣ Confront challenging, complex issues and have the courage to collectively take responsibility for our place and future generations
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- ▣ Be open to fundamental transformation in instances where adapting is not sufficient



## Creating a complete City

- ▣ Enhance quality of life for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes through integrated planning solutions grounded in complete streets, complete housing, and complete infrastructure
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## Insist on being an authentic City that is genuinely a great place

- ▣ Inspire emotional connections to public places and spaces
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