

INTRODUCTION

A **comprehensive plan** represents a road map to achieve a desirable future. The Salina Comprehensive Plan through the guidance provided, rooted in a defined vision and realized by the implementation of its actions, will achieve the future desired by the community. The Comprehensive Plan is the core planning document for the community as it charts a course for the future. As such, additional planning efforts and guiding documents should be rooted in the vision, policies and strategies identified in this document. Other plans that guide the community to action including development master plans, strategic actions plans, zoning code changes and street designs, to name a few, should look to this document for direction. Additionally, as implementation occurs and detailed decisions are made, this document will provide the necessary guidance. The Comprehensive Plan is a document that should be used by the community to make decisions on a daily basis. The road map for the future is contained within the elements of this plan.

To achieve the desired community of the future, the plan focuses on those elements that are central to the physical conditions in the community. The elements defined in this plan will change over time, and as issues are addressed and goals are met new elements will be identified. The elements of the plan include physical development (future land use and growth and development), connectivity, parks, downtown, neighborhoods and housing and economic development. The plan elements include recommendations for action including those policies and strategies necessary to affect change. When combined with the implementation actions the action plan is complete.

To provide a foundation for the policies, strategies and action within this document a **Technical Support Document** has been prepared. That document includes an existing conditions analysis of present day Salina including history, demographics, growth projections, land use, a housing assessment, natural resources, public infrastructure, transportation and the economy, as well as documentation of the community survey and planning process. The technical support document should be assessed on a regular basis to assess the foundation of information on which the plan was established.

As part of the planning process a **Community Attitude and Interest Survey** was conducted to assess support for recommendations of the plan that will guide long range decision making for the community. The survey was designed to obtain input from a random sample of households throughout the City of Salina. The goal was to obtain a total of at least 400 completed surveys from City of Salina residents. This goal was far exceeded, with a total of 534 surveys having been completed.

The survey focused on the primary plan elements of land use, growth and development, connectivity, parks, Downtown Salina, neighborhoods and housing and economic development. For each element people were asked which policy actions or proposed strategy they supported. Support was asked in two ways, general support for the idea or concept and financial support through the use of public funds. In general, there was some level of support for all the recommendations made and in many cases a significant level of support, 65 to 92 percent of those surveyed. However, as one might expect, when asked to support plan elements through the use of tax dollars, support declined.

The intent of the survey was not to solicit 100% support for those items that the community should pursue. Rather to better understand the priorities of the public in achieving the vision, defined by the Comprehensive Plan, for the future of Salina. With that understanding, plan elements that received 65% support are considered more important to a majority of the community than those elements that received 42%. Just because a low percentage of people supported a particular idea does not mean it is not important and cannot have a positive effect on the community. Those items that were included in the survey are discussed in this document and the complete survey and results can be found in the Technical Support Document.

The plan has been organized to address the necessary components of the future; the *vision*, the *plan* and *implementation*. The vision provides the foundation, in conjunction with the goals and objectives of the community, to guide decisions that will impact the future. The plan provides the details regarding the specific elements that are important in shaping the future of the city. Implementation represents the actions as they are carried out to achieve the vision of the community for the future. As you can see, the future is the focus of this comprehensive plan in all aspects, but we must first start with the vision.