

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Chris Saunders, Community Development Manager
Erin George, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Approval of Public Engagement Plan for the Bozeman Community Plan
Technical Compliance Update

MEETING DATE: July 15, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: **Consider the Motion:** *I move to approve the proposed Engagement Plan for the Bozeman Community Plan Technical Compliance Update.*

STRATEGIC PLAN: 4.2 High Quality Urban Approach: Continue to support high-quality planning, ranging from building design to neighborhood layouts, while pursuing urban approaches to issues such as multimodal transportation, infill, density, connected trails and parks, and walkable neighborhoods.

BACKGROUND: The City of Bozeman has authority to conduct land use planning within the authority and parameters established by the state legislature. In 2023, the Legislature adopted [Title 76, Chapter 25, MCA](#), [external link] the Montana Land Use Planning Act (MLUPA). This new act replaces the prior planning enabling legislation. Attached is the new law section that describes requirements for public engagement.

The City is required to update its land use plan and implementing regulations to comply with the new law. The new law requires inclusion of a wide range of data on many topics. Much of this information exists in already adopted city plans or from others such as School District 7 and the Montana State Library. The new law explicitly authorizes reliance on these existing sources.

Preparation of a full update for a land use plan takes 2-3 years. The state has established a deadline for the City to complete its initial compliance to MLUPA by May 17, 2026. Compliance requires an update to the land use plan and adoption of implementing regulations by the due date.

Due to the constrained time frame it is necessary to undertake a technical compliance update to revise plan wording to update statutory references and update data to include required new data. During the consideration of the Supplemental Engagement for the UDC last fall the Commission considered the limitations of schedule and concurred with this limited topic update approach. This approach has been described in various public

engagement events over the winter and spring.

One required element of the new law is that the City Commission approve a public engagement plan prior to beginning the process to update the plan. This action item meets that requirement. The public engagement plan is a baseline commitment and does not prevent the City from using other methods not listed in the plan. The plan sets out an anticipated schedule of activities from beginning to end of the project. It does not specify the details of outcomes or what members of the community choose to comment on.

The Community Development Board reviewed the draft document on July 7, 2025. After review, they recommended approval of the plan with clarifications and additional specificity in description of the project. The attached draft includes revisions to the text responding to the Board's recommendation.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: As identified by City Commission.

ALTERNATIVES: As identified by City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: Funds for the project have previously been budgeted.

Attachments:

[BCP_TCU_Community Engagement Plan CC Draft.pdf](#)
[76-25-106. Public participation, MCA.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: July 8, 2025