

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Community Development Board

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

SUBJECT: Bozeman Community Plan Technical Compliance Update Engagement Plan

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: Receive information.

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 is authorized 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). MLUPA replaces all prior planning enabling legislation for the City of Bozeman.

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 established a deadline for the City to complete its initial compliance to MLUPA by May 17, 2026. Due to the constrained time frame it is necessary to undertake a limited technical compliance update to revise plan wording to update statutory references, update key descriptive data for the community, and to include required new data. The City Commission considered the restricted time element in their consideration of the supplemental public engagement for the UDC update last fall and concurred with this approach.

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. The City Commission approved a public engagement plan on July 15th for the update to the Bozeman Community Plan. This presentation is to help familiarize the Community Development Board, which has a direct

responsibility in review of a land use plan, with the overall update process and schedule.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None identified.

ALTERNATIVES: As identified by the Community Development board.

FISCAL EFFECTS: Budget authority for the update has been set. This presentation does not obligate any funds.

Report compiled on: July 17, 2025