

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Community Development Board

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

SUBJECT: Presentation of Population Projections and Housing Needs as part of the Bozeman Community Plan technical update for compliance with the Montana Land Use Planning Act.

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: Receive information and ask questions regarding these issues. No final decision or recommendation is required with this item.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 4.1 Informed Conversation on Growth: Continue developing an in-depth understanding of how Bozeman is growing and changing and proactively address change in a balanced and coordinated manner.

BACKGROUND: In 2023, the Montana Legislature adopted the Montana Land Use Planning Act (MLUPA). The Act replaces the enabling legislation that allows Bozeman to adopt zoning and subdivision regulations and conduct long range land use planning. The new legislation requires the City to complete the update to its land use plan and implementing documents by May 17, 2026. The land use plan must be completed first. The City has created a website for the project which is available through the [Engage Bozeman](#) [External Link] platform .

Elements of MLUPA require the City to look at population trends and what housing may be needed to address future housing needs. The City contracted with Economic Planning Systems (EPS) to prepare an analysis of several alternative population, employment, and housing need forecasts. EPS has worked with City departments for a number of years and provided information in support of the Bozeman Community Plan 2020 growth policy.

The future is inherently uncertain. Therefore, there are multiple projections looking at different possible outcomes. There is no guarantee than any of the projected outcomes will occur due to many factors outside of the City's control. The projections look out to 2045. The analysis looks not only at the city limits of Bozeman but also the greater Gallatin County area. There is an increasing interrelationship between the municipalities and other developed areas outside of the City.

Staff will present information from the projections, mapping analysis of various issues, and identify other needed information and how it will be made available to the public.

This information was presented at public information sessions on August 25th and August 27th and to the City Commission on August 26th.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None identified at this time.

ALTERNATIVES: As identified.

FISCAL EFFECTS: Funds for the projection and mapping work has been budgeted.

Attachments:

[Bozeman MT Pop and Housing Forecast_8-14-25.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: August 28, 2025