
Date: May 13, 2022
To: General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) members
From: General Plan Update Team
Subject: May 19, 2022 GPAC Meeting

We are looking forward to the next GPAC meeting, coming up next Thursday, May 19. This memo is intended to help you prepare for that meeting. As usual, we will cover a range of topics. The meeting will include staff updates and two presentations. First, members of the Raimi + Associates team focusing on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) will share a summary of the GHG analysis completed. Then, we will have a presentation from community members working with the American Institute of Architect's Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) to help us think about "15 Minute Neighborhoods and Living Streets" in Petaluma. We will also again reserve time for GPAC Working Group updates and related discussion, and staff will share brief updates about the project and related initiatives.

Background: Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Mitigation Strategies, and Reduction Analysis

In parallel with our General Plan process, the City is working with Raimi + Associated to prepare a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). As foundational analysis for the CAAP, Raimi + Associates prepared a greenhouse gas inventory (a link is available at <https://www.planpetaluma.org/documents>), identified a range of strategies for mitigating GHG emissions, and develop pathways for meeting State and local GHG reduction goals.

Carbon neutrality is central to the community's Vision, Pillars, and Guiding Principles. The General Plan Update and GHG mitigation are also directly connected in a number of ways (e.g., land use, open space, ecosystem conservation, building standards, transportation), so it is important for the GPAC to understand the measures being considered for reducing GHG emissions.

An overview of R+A's GHG work will be presented during the meeting, but if you'd like a deeper dive, you might be interested in the materials prepared for the January 2022 meeting of the Climate Action Commission (https://petaluma.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=31&clip_id=3524).

Background: Sustainable Design Assessment Team

The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) is a program of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The mission of the SDAT program is to provide technical assistance and process expertise to help communities develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future. SDAT brings together multidisciplinary teams of professionals to work with community decision-makers and stakeholders through an intensive planning process. SDAT provides broad assessments to help frame future policies or design solutions in the context of sustainability and help communities plan the first steps of implementation. For more information about the SDAT program, consult the AIA's Center for Communities by Design website: www.aia.org/cxd.

Petaluma community members were awarded an SDAT project in partnership with the City, which is slated to focus on "15 Minute Neighborhoods and Living Streets" in early August 2022. This focus reflects the community's vision for infill development, reducing VMT, and providing easy access for all residents to greenspace, shopping, and public services. The recommendations from the SDAT team will inform the location and make-up of potential future neighborhood centers across the city. During the meeting, representatives of the Petaluma SDAT team will provide an overview of the project scope, schedule, and work products.

Checking in with GPAC Working Groups

We hope to reserve time during each GPAC meeting for GPAC Working Groups to share updates from recent activity. The General Plan Update Team will also provide additional guidance to focus Working Group effort in coming months.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Paul (cpaul@cityofpetaluma.org). Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you next week!

Attachments:

Attachment A: Summary notes from the April 21, 2022 GPAC meeting