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San Mateo Kicks Off Major Citywide Planning Effort

City seeks community input as General Plan update begins with first subcommittee meeting

San Mateo, CA — The City of San Mateo is embarking on an update of its General Plan, the primary citywide policy document that will guide growth and conservation decisions in the community over the next 20 years.

Public input is vital to this process and the City is actively seeking to engage the community in planning for future land use and investment in San Mateo. During this planning process there will be a variety of opportunities for community engagement including formal and informal meetings, as well as online.

The first in-person opportunity for the public to participate in the process is Monday, September 24 during the initial General Plan Subcommittee meeting. This seven-member committee was appointed by the City Council and includes council members as well as commissioners.

This first meeting will include a high-level overview of the General Plan as well as the schedule for the update process. The public and subcommittee may also provide input on what they believe are some of San Mateo's pressing issues and ways to address those concerns through the General Plan.

Community members will also be able to learn about the project and provide comment at any time by visiting the General Plan Update website StriveSanMateo.org. The site explains the purpose of the General Plan, describes the components of the update, provides a downloadable graphic schedule of the multi-year process and includes a calendar of events. The site also offers a series of surveys to gather input on the City's future.

In addition to the General Plan Subcommittee meetings that include opportunities for public comment, the update process involves a series of community workshops and events that will begin this October. Anyone unable to attend public forums or wishing to provide written comments may also do so by delivering it to City Hall via mail, fax or email.

The General Plan contains goals and policies that regulate urban development, protection of the natural environment and public safety. It reflects the community's long-term vision and provides the perspective to judge day-to-day decisions by these future goals.

The City Council and the Planning Commission use the General Plan when considering land use and planning-related decisions, and it also guides future funding decisions. City staff refer to the plan on a daily basis when administering and regulating land use and development activity. The plan also enables citizens and those seeking to develop property to understand San Mateo's values and objectives.

The community is encouraged to participate in the update of this General Plan that will help set a vision for San Mateo through 2040.

"We are excited to begin this collaborative process," said City Manager Larry Patterson. "We want to hear from the public about their vision for the community and how we can help shape the future of San Mateo over the next 20 years."

Upcoming General Plan Subcommittee Meeting: Monday, September 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. Visit StriveSanMateo.org for more information.

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