

> WHAT IS THE MASTER PLAN AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM RECOVERY AND REBUILDING PLANS?

> HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY BE INVOLVED?

The City Planning Commission wants everyone in New Orleans to be informed about, and participate in, the creation of the city's new Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO). The Master Plan will be our city's blueprint and roadmap for the next 20 years and the CZO will be a user-friendly zoning ordinance that reflects the Master Plan. Your participation will help ensure that these important city documents will reflect our community's vision and goals for the future, the policies that we want to follow, and the strategies that we decide to pursue to achieve the vision. Final drafts of the new Master Plan and the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance are expected to be ready to go through the adoption process in June 2009. Assisting the City in creating the New Orleans Master Plan and CZO is a consultant team led by Goody Clancy & Associates and made up of both national and New Orleans experts. Goody Clancy prepared UNOP plans for Districts 1, 6, and 7.

What Is the New Orleans Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Project?

The New Orleans City Planning Commission (CPC) is preparing a citywide Master Plan to guide the long-term physical development of the city, as required by the City Charter, and a new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to implement the Master Plan. Before Katrina, the CPC had been working on a Master Plan for several years and had approved some sections of the plan. These older sections will be reviewed and updated, while new sections will be prepared on topics such as housing and human services, infrastructure and facilities, environmental quality, and economic development. The Master Plan/CZO project will focus on integrating and balancing all the interests and neighborhoods in the city to:

- Provide *vision, goals, policy and strategic guidance, and an action plan for the future physical development* of the city.
- Guide *the city to actively seek positive change and deflect negative change*, rather than simply react after change has occurred.
- Provide *predictability for residents, businesses, and developers*.
- Help *the city save money because it plans for orderly investment* in services, facilities and infrastructure.
- Help New Orleans *preserve the sense of place and identity* that make it unique.

We've Been Planning a Lot Since Katrina. What's Different About This Plan?

The Master Plan/CZO project will not supersede the recovery and rebuilding plans that New Orleanians have worked so hard on since Katrina—rather, the Master Plan/CZO will build on the UNOP and other plans. This planning process will focus on:

- **A 20-year plan, agenda and strategy.** The Master Plan has a long term horizon. The post-Katrina planning efforts were focused on recovery from the Katrina disaster and rebuilding of the city. The Master Plan will create a clear, multi-year agenda for the City to focus its own resources and to advocate effectively for the additional resources it needs.
- **An integrated citywide approach.** The Master Plan will integrate neighborhood goals into a broader plan for balanced growth and municipal systems across the city.
- **New approaches and alternatives.** The plan consultants will bring to the community a range of new approaches being used around the country as well as alternative scenarios for New Orleans's growth so that New Orleanians can decide what fits their vision for the city's long-term future.
- **Implementation from the beginning.** Implementation strategies, action steps, and funding sources will be discussed as the plan is developed, and opportunities for early actions and early successes will be identified.
- **Zoning compatible with the plan.** The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance will implement the Plan, translating Master Plan policies into user-friendly land use and development regulations.

How Will the Community Be Involved?

A successful citywide master plan and zoning ordinance reflects the values, aspirations and priorities of the whole community. That's why it is so important for everyone to learn about and contribute to the planning process. There will be multiple ways you can get involved to suit your interests and schedule, to learn more about opportunities for New Orleans in the future, and to make sure that your ideas are heard on both long range planning and zoning issues.

- **Web Site.** The project website, www.nolamasterplan.org, will go live on August 2, 2008. The web site will be a central source of information on the Master Plan/CZO project, including a calendar of events, project documents, and opportunities to provide input to the planning and zoning team. Anyone can sign up for email alerts as new information is posted to the site. Project information will also be made available for people who do not have access to the internet.
- **New Orleans Resident Public Opinion Survey.** You may be one of the sample households contacted to participate in a survey for the Master Plan/CZO project. Please respond if you receive a mailing or a phone call about this project! The survey will provide a broad and geographically representative view of public opinion on matters relevant to the Master Plan/CZO Project.
- **Citywide Forums.** Five public meetings focusing on specific topics—"communities of interest"—on a citywide level will be held.
- **District Meetings.** Public meetings and open houses in district planning areas—"communities of place"—focused on issues within those districts will be held.
- **Neighborhood Group Meetings.** At the invitation of neighborhood groups, members of the planning and zoning team will be available to receive neighborhood input.
- **Community Advisory Group.** The City Planning Commission will appoint a Community Advisory Group, including neighborhood association leaders, that is representative of New Orleans's diversity to serve as a sounding board during the planning and zoning process.
- **Working Groups.** The City Planning Commission will appoint knowledgeable persons from the public, private and nonprofit sectors, to work with the consultant team on specific topics.

All public meetings will include presentations on innovative and best practices from around the country, interactive discussions, and opportunities to identify zoning concerns and issues. The most intensive period of community participation will occur from September 2008 through January 2009, including four citywide forums and 20 district meetings and open houses.

How Is the Proposed Charter Amendment for a "Master Plan with the Force of Law" Related to This Project?

Among other changes, the proposed amendment specifies the legal relationship between the Master Plan, the CZO, and the city capital plan and budget, requiring that:

- The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) must be consistent with the Master Plan.
- Any amendments to the CZO must be consistent with the Master Plan.
- The capital improvement plan and capital budget must be consistent with the Master Plan.
- The City Council must establish a system of neighborhood participation.
- The Master Plan must be reviewed for possible amendments or a comprehensive revision at least once every five years, but no more often than once a year, with public hearings and in accordance with a neighborhood participation system to be adopted.

The Master Plan/CZO project will create a Master Plan and a new draft CZO reflecting the Master Plan's policies regardless of action on the proposed charter amendment.