

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Process"

Policy Letter 802: Availability of Plans

BACKGROUND:

Fargo has a long history of planning and development expectations and intentions of one interest group running into and conflicting with planning and development expectations and intentions of another interest group. Property owners have expressed surprise and sometimes anger toward both public and private development proposals. Good or necessary projects have been frustrated or badly compromised by opposition groups. Private development proposals occasionally have been surprised by late developing resistance to their proposals. Time and money is lost to negotiating the project to a conclusion and sometimes rejection.

Besides the purpose of achieving a desired end result, it is the purpose of planning to provide an orderly process to development decision-making. This process needs to provide early and clear information with respect to development intentions. In so doing, it is hoped that there will be a higher level of development compatibility and a lower level of development conflict.

Everyone with an interest in the outcome needs to know as much as possible, as early as possible, if these aims are to be achieved.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should establish very accessible public locations, systems, and electronic data processes where specific and detailed information regarding current and proposed plans of the City can be reviewed. This information should address, but not be limited to, land use, transportation, utilities, public facilities, and other important features of the City.

CONCLUSION:

The City needs to design and implement a specific program to make planning information readily accessible to the community. This program needs to decide specifically what information is available and design a format that makes that information as understandable as possible. The program needs to decide where and how this information will be made available and how the general public will be informed as to how to access the information. Finally the program needs to have a built in system of current updates. In order for the program to become and remain viable, a specific budget needs to be provided.