

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission
From: Jeff Churchill, AICP, Senior Planner, 556-2492
Date: October 26, 2011
Subject: **Community Indicators Program Update Briefing**

Briefing Background

The purpose of this briefing is to outline proposed updates to the Redmond Community Indicators program, established in 2005. Redmond Community Indicators is one way the City measures progress the City is making toward Comprehensive Plan goals. Because the Plan is undergoing a significant update, it is the right time to review and update Redmond Community Indicators.

Redmond Community Indicators Purpose and Outline

The purpose of Redmond Community Indicators is to monitor progress toward achieving community goals and implementing the Comprehensive Plan to help assess whether current policy is effective and what actions would improve plan implementation.

Redmond Community Indicators contains two sections: indicators and implementation actions. Indicators are measures used to signal the extent to which Redmond is advancing Comprehensive Plan goals. For example, measuring the water quality index in a selection of Redmond streams indicates the health of the natural environment. High quality indicators have the following features: they are measurable, measurements are reliable, they are outcome-oriented, they are understandable, and they actually indicate movement toward or away from achieving a particular goal. Some goals are easier to measure than others, and that is reflected in the selection of indicators.

Implementation actions are discrete actions the City can take to advance Comprehensive Plan policy objectives. For example, “Acquire the [BNSF right-of-way] within the City of Redmond” is an implementation action that the City has now completed.

Both the indicators and implementation action sections of Redmond Community Indicators are organized around the eight overarching Comprehensive Plan goals. The goals are multi-dimensional: no one indicator can adequately monitor any one of them, and no one action can implement any one of them. Therefore, Redmond Community Indicators contains a group of indicators for each goal. Each indicator tells part (a different part) of the story of a goal. Similarly, multiple implementation actions fall under each goal. In addition, each implementation action is linked directly to a Comprehensive Plan policy.

Concurrent to this update, the City's Performance Leadership Team is reviewing the performance component of Budgeting by Priorities. City staff is currently working to align as many Budgeting by Priorities measures and Community Indicators measures as possible to make efficient use of limited staff time.

Changes to Indicators

In reviewing the indicators, staff is concentrating on:

- Selecting indicators to match updates in goals or policy emphasis areas
- Improving or eliminating indicators that lack characteristics of high-quality indicators
- Incorporating high-quality indicators not previously incorporated
- Aligning BP and Community Indicators measures

While the 2010-11 Comprehensive Plan update entailed significant and detailed review of Comprehensive Plan policies, the overall direction of goals and policies did not change. Primarily for that reason, proposed changes to indicators are fairly limited.

The following indicators are proposed to be changed:

- Stream health: incorporate number of miles class 2 streams accessible to salmonids
- Housing affordability: incorporate percentage of cost-burdened households and progress toward meeting affordable housing targets
- Housing choice: incorporate progress toward meeting housing targets
- Centers investment: incorporate percentage of urban center initiatives complete
- Income and poverty: incorporate mean wage
- Human services: replace existing measures with the following two measures:
 - Percentage of human services contractors service providers meeting 90% of contracted performance results
 - Number of dollars for human services leveraged from other jurisdictions or organizations per dollar of funding from the City of Redmond

The following indicators are proposed to be deleted:

- Urban growth area expansions
- Bird counts at Marymoor
- Transfer of development rights activity (to be included for information only)
- Street trees
- Fire, police, and emergency medical service calls for service (to be included for information only)
- Demolition of small homes
- Commercial vacancy rates
- Emergency and transitional housing
- Human Services Fund contribution
- Regional coordination in service provision
- Service provision to immigrant and refugee communities

Other changes may be proposed as staff continues to align BP and Community Indicators measures.

Changes to Implementation Actions

In reviewing the implementation actions, staff focused on:

- Removing actions that are complete
- Updating completion timeframes
- Removing actions that are not discrete
- Migrating capital-related actions to the Capital Investment Strategy document
- Adding actions resulting from policy updates

Six years have passed since the original implementation actions list was developed. As a result, many actions are complete and staff proposes to remove them from the list. For actions that are not complete, staff proposes to update completion timeframes. We have also learned from reporting on implementation actions that some of the original actions are not discrete or specific enough to be included on the list. Staff proposes that they be removed. A number of actions relate to capital projects. This year the City is completing its initial Capital Investment Strategy. That document is the appropriate home for capital-related actions. Finally, staff proposes to add new actions as suggested by policy updates.

Future Updates

Two topic areas are not included in this update: climate and energy, and transportation. The updated Natural Environment element of the Comprehensive Plan calls for a Climate Action Plan with greenhouse gas emission reduction targets (policy NE-113a). This plan is will include its own goals, objectives, and implementing actions. Rather than choosing climate- and energy-related indicators and actions at this time, staff recommends adopting some or all of the indicators and actions that are part of the Climate Action Plan.

Transportation-related indicators and implementation actions will come to the Planning Commission as part of the ongoing Transportation Master Plan update. Just as Redmond Community Indicators currently includes a portion of the Mobility Report Card, it would include some or all of the successor to the Mobility Report Card.

Preparation for October 26 Briefing

Staff requests that the Planning Commission review this memo and also the latest edition of Redmond Community Indicators, which is available online at www.redmond.gov/CommunityIndicators. While this item shows as a briefing for your October 26 meeting, staff welcomes initial comments, questions, and issues related to this topic.

Review Schedule

Though not a formal Comprehensive Plan update, a public hearing is scheduled for November 9, 2011 in order to provide a dedicated time to hear public comment on this update. Because of the limited scope of this update, staff anticipates that the Commission will make a recommendation after the public hearing and ensuing discussion on November 9.

City Council review will follow and is expected to conclude in early 2012.