



MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission

From: Beverly Mesa-Zendt, Deputy Director
Brooke Buckingham, Senior Planner
Planning and Community Development

Date: December 9, 2020

Subject: Housing Action Plan Draft Strategies

PURPOSE

Staff will review the draft strategies that will be integrated into the final Housing Action Plan currently in development.

Based on analysis and findings from the [Housing Needs Assessment](#) and [Public Involvement Report](#), staff has coordinated with consultant ECONorthwest to develop draft strategies and actions to guide the City's housing actions over the next 20 years. These strategies will provide a roadmap for creating more housing, diversifying the housing that is built, and focusing on solutions that address issues of disparity and affordability.

A draft Housing Action Plan will be completed in advance of the January 5, 2021 City Council meeting and will be provided in the meeting packet for City Council review.

BACKGROUND

In fall of 2019, the City of Redmond applied for grant funding through the Department of Commerce for the development of a Housing Action Plan (HAP). On February 18, 2020, City Council authorized the Mayor to execute a contract with ECONorthwest for the development of Redmond's HAP. The City continues to work closely with ECONorthwest and the public engagement subcontractor, Broadview Planning, to deliver the contracted deliverables of the HAP.

This development of draft strategies represents a key milestone in the development of a Housing Action Plan for the City of Redmond. The Housing Action Plan will provide actionable strategies and a plan for implementation to assist the City in meeting its current and future housing needs. The Housing Action Plan will also assist the City addressing the growing need for affordable housing and the need for more and diverse housing choices in the City. Finally, the Housing Action Plan will inform the Housing Element Update required as part of the Redmond 2050 Periodic Review.

Relevant laws or codes

Redmond Zoning Code, Redmond Municipal Code, Redmond Comprehensive Plan

Work completed to date

Project deliverables include:

- A Housing Needs Assessment completed,
- A Public Involvement Plan completed,
- A Public Involvement Report completed,
- Draft Strategies completed,
- A Draft Housing Action Plan, and
- A Final Housing Action Plan.

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:

Timeline :

Community involvement primarily occurred from May through July of 2020.

Once strategies and the draft plan are reviewed by City Council in January, staff will follow up with stakeholders and community members to elicit feedback on draft strategies during the months of February and early March and will utilize feedback to finalize strategies and timelines that will be included in the final Housing Action Plan.

Outreach Methods and Results:

Outreach efforts included stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and a community questionnaire. Additionally, documents were posted and available for comment on the city's website [Redmond Housing Action Plan](#) and for public meetings with both the City Council and the Planning Commission.

The results of these efforts are summarized in the [Public Involvement Report](#).

Feedback Summary:

- To date, the themes that have emerged from public involvement efforts are:
- Redmond is a highly desirable place to live;
- Public Involvement affirms that housing affordability is an issue for many;
- Homeownership is preferred over renting but seems like an impossible option to many;
- Businesses have concerns over employee retention without affordable housing;
- New housing types could better reflect Redmond's rich cultural diversity; and
- People face stigmas about their housing that are real, pervasive, and dehumanizing.

REQUESTED ACTION (IF APPLICABLE)

Review and provide input on draft strategies.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will be sharing the complete draft with City Council on January 5, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Housing Action Plan Draft Strategies