Welcome & Introductions

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Poll: Where do you live?
Who is Consensus Planning?

- Small planning and landscape architecture firm in Downtown Albuquerque
- Provides planning and design services for clients throughout NM
- Author of the 2018 City of Aztec Downtown MRA Plan
- Other recent projects:
  - Raton Comprehensive Plan
  - Clayton Comprehensive Plan
  - Union County Comprehensive Plan
  - Carlsbad Comprehensive Plan
  - Clovis Comprehensive Plan
  - Alamogordo Comprehensive Plan
Why Plan?

• Planning helps communities prepare for the future
• Identifies problems and points the way to solutions by taking a measured, systematic approach
• Provides the rationale for establishing priorities
• Provides the basis for decision-making on growth and development, and capital expenditures
• Provides opportunities to educate and engage the community
What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- A Comprehensive Plan is a long range, general policy guide.
- It provides a written and graphic description of existing conditions, community aspirations, and a “road map.”
- It ensures the community vision is achieved through sound decision-making regarding future growth, development, and capital expenditures.
- It is adopted by the Governing Body as a Resolution.
Poll: Have you read or are you familiar with the 2002 Comprehensive Plan?
Comprehensive Plan Elements

- Economic Development
- Community Services & Facilities
- Land Use
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Hazard Mitigation

IMPLEMENTATION
Framing the Planning Process

- What has changed since the 2002 Comprehensive Plan?
- What are the community’s concerns, needs, and priorities?
- How do we maintain what Aztec residents cherish about the community?
- What is the vision for Aztec in 20 years – how should it grow and develop?
Public Outreach - Guiding Principles

- Involve citizens of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds
- Engage and communicate with community stakeholders
- Make the process interactive
- Practice active listening
- Engage elected officials and cultivate champions of the Plan
Existing Land Use Survey
Community Survey

• Includes a series of 40 questions:
  ✓ Tenure
  ✓ Quality of Life services and amenities
  ✓ Employment and economic development
  ✓ Growth and development
  ✓ Tourism
  ✓ Transportation and infrastructure
  ✓ Housing
  ✓ Demographics

• Went live in June and will run until August 3rd

• A total of 237 responses as of this morning
Key Takeaways: Profile

- As of this morning, 237 people took the survey; majority were female between the ages of 25 and 49
- Majority (41%) have attained some college, associate degree, or vocational certificate
- Majority (44%) have a household income of $75,000+
- 50% have lived in Aztec for more than 20 years; representation was from all Council Districts
Key Takeaways: Quality of Life

• 78% are likely or very likely to live in Aztec for the next 2-5 years
• Of those who are considering moving, 53% would leave for higher quality of life amenities elsewhere
• 61% said that quality of life in Aztec is good or excellent
• Favorite aspects include small town atmosphere, outdoor recreation, and natural environment
Key Takeaways: Quality of Life

• Popular local amenities included Riverside Park; other City parks, trails, and open space; and the Animas River

• Popular regional amenities included Navajo Lake, Natural Arches, Lower San Juan River, and mountain bike trails
Key Takeaways: Quality of Life

• Asked what City services or facilities should be improved or expanded, river trail development was most frequently chosen; Riverside Park and improvements to landscaping and street trees were also popular choices.

• Asked their priorities for improving City services and functions:
  - Increasing community participation and volunteerism
  - Increasing transparency of City functions
  - Customer services

• 80% agreed or strongly agreed that the visual appearance of Aztec should be improved.
Key Takeaways: Health Care

• 43% agreed that health care services in Aztec is adequate to serve their needs; 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed

• When asked where they go for health care, respondents said Farmington (62%), Durango (49%), and Aztec (34%)
Key Takeaways: Employment & Economic Development

• 74% are employed; 62% of the unemployed are retired and 21% are stay-at-home parents or caregivers.

• Largest employment categories are education (19%) and mining and oil/gas (14%); health care/social services; public administration comprised 11% each.

• Asked what areas of economic development Aztec should focus on, most chose “restaurants; outdoor recreation; tourism; and retail.”
Key Takeaways: Growth & Development

- 78% disagreed or strongly disagreed that Aztec has adequate commercial retail/business services; Of those:
  - 76% said Aztec needs general retail
  - 77% said restaurants
  - 54% said arts and entertainment venues

- Asked where they go to shop instead of Aztec, responses were Farmington (95%), Durango (64%), and online (64%)
Key Takeaways: Growth & Development

- 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the City should encourage infill development
- 60% agreed or strongly agreed the City should encourage mixed-use development
Key Takeaways: Tourism

- 87% believe the tourist economy is either extremely important or very important to Aztec.
- Asked what are Aztec’s most important tourism opportunities, respondents said: Aztec Ruins (90%); outdoor recreation (73%); and local community events (51%).
- Asked what Aztec should do to protect its historic assets, respondents said: revise building codes (45%); provide financial assistance or fee waivers (47%); and create historic design guidelines (35%).
Key Takeaways: Transportation & Infrastructure

• Virtually all respondents use a personal car or truck for transportation; 45% walk; and 25% use bicycles

• 43% believe Aztec has an adequate multi-modal transportation system; however, 47% disagreed or strongly disagreed

• Asked what types of transportation and infrastructure improvements should the City focus on, most chose “improve/maintain streets; improve/add sidewalks; and improve/add multi-use trails”
Key Takeaways: Housing

• 46% agreed or strongly agreed Aztec should increase its supply of affordable housing; 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed

• 90% own or are purchasing their home

• Of the 9% that rent, respondents chose: “cannot afford the mortgage (33%); prefer to rent than own (24%); cannot afford the down payment (19%)”

• Asked what types of housing are needed, respondents chose: “single-family homes (71%); affordable housing (42%); townhouses/duplexes (38%)”
How would you describe Aztec to someone who has never been here and was thinking about moving to Aztec this year?
What are the top three special things about Aztec that should be preserved for the future?
What are the top three aspects of Aztec that should be changed or improved?
Imagine it’s 2040, how would you now describe Aztec to someone who has never been here and was thinking about moving to Aztec?
Let’s Stay Connected!

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