



Chapter 8 Implementation

Town of South Padre Island Comprehensive Plan

With the vision in place, the Town should now direct its resources toward plan implementation. This element establishes general priorities and sets forth a process to ensure the plan is implemented and kept current over time. In order to be successful in implementing this plan, there should be a consensus of direction and a commitment to act. Directly associated with implementation is the designation of responsibilities for action, enactment of specific strategies to accomplish the goals of the plan, and guidance as to the process for updating the plan

periodically.

Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to integrate the elements of the plan and to provide a clear path for sound decision making. Implementation is an essential step in the plan development process. It requires the commitment of the Town's leadership, including the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Planning and Zoning Commission, other Town boards and commissions, and Town staff. It is also necessary for there to be close coordination with and joint commitment from other organizations that significantly influence the Island and its growth and development, including:

1. Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT);
2. Cameron County;
3. Neighboring cities such as Port Isabel and Laguna Vista;
4. Laguna Madre Water District;
5. Convention and Visitor's Bureau;
6. Economic Development Corporation; and
7. Chamber of Commerce;

8. Other organizations, agencies, and groups.
9. The private development community;

Each preceding chapter of this plan outlines specific issues to be addressed to achieve what is envisioned by Town residents, business's and land owners. In response are a significant number of recommended actions that relate to regulatory changes, programmatic initiatives, and capital projects. While these recommendations are comprehensive and intended to be accomplished over the 20-year horizon of this plan, near-term strategies should be put in place to take the first step toward implementation. These strategies should then be prioritized, with decisions as to the sequencing of activities, the capacity to fulfill each initiative, and the ability to obligate the necessary funding. Those deemed as top priorities and viewed as feasible in the short term should be placed in a five-year action plan. In addition to implementing these targeted strategies, the broader policies set forth by the plan text and maps may be used in making decisions related to the physical and economic development of the Island.

Plan Implementation

Included with this chapter is a spreadsheet of all goals and recommended actions within the Plan; each recommended action has a corresponding time frame and indication of the need for budgeting.

The two primary ways to implement this plan are for the Board of Aldermen to:

- budget appropriate monies and resources for capital items, and/or
- update and/or amend existing Town ordinances.

Strict adherence and enforcement of building and development codes is vital to sustain the quality of development; therefore the necessary ordinances must be updated and adopted promptly after acceptance of this plan. Since the City Manager and town staff cannot dedicate appropriate resources except as authorized by the Board of Aldermen through an approved budget, all budgets need to clearly reflect the continued dedication to implement this plan.

The City Manager, all Town Directors, all Town Committee members and each of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor need to review this plan on a yearly basis in order to make decisions that are consistent with the goals and recommended actions.

Plan Amendment

This plan must remain flexible and allow for adjustment to change over time. Shifts in political, economic, physical, and social conditions and other unforeseen circumstances will influence the priorities of the Island. As growth continues, new issues will emerge, while others may no longer be relevant. Some action statements may become less practical, while other plausible solutions will arise. To ensure that it continues to reflect the vision and remains relevant and viable over time, the plan should be revisited on a routine basis, with regular amendments and warranted updates.

Conclusion

In April 2006, the 12 member CPAC committee was appointed by the Board of Aldermen and worked diligently until February 2008 to complete the plan. The committee represented a diverse group of local individuals from a cross section of the community. The committee recognizes that implementation of this plan will require considerable sums of public funds, and the dedication of staff and elected officials to see it unfold. The committee recommends that the Board of Aldermen prioritize the plan's recommendations at their annual strategic planning sessions and allocate necessary funds as they become available to implement the plan.