



Importance of the Comprehensive Plan

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that outlines Socorro's long-term vision and desires for:



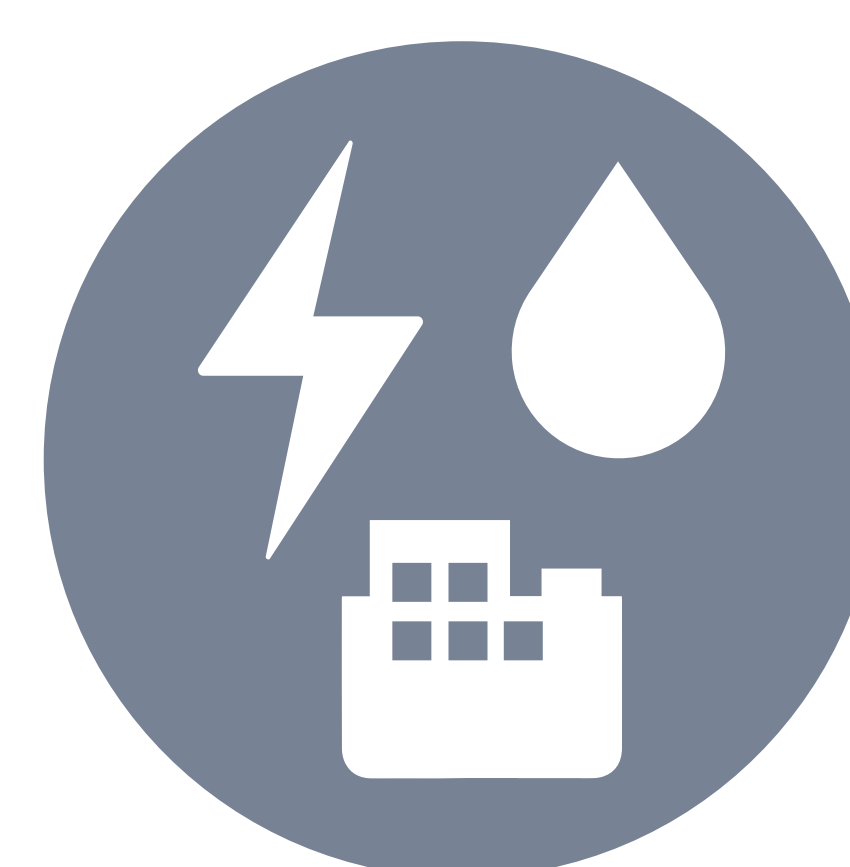
Growth and Development



Quality of Life



Mobility



Public Services and Facilities



Community Resiliency

The Plan

Covers a planning horizon to the year 2040

Contains goals, policies, and actions to execute Socorro's vision for the future

Provides generalized guidance for future land use and strategic planning initiatives

Integrates existing plans into one current, actionable, and comprehensive document

The Plan CAN NOT

Change the zoning of a property

However, it provides guidance for future zoning changes

Help the City attract specific retailers and businesses

However, it can help guide economic development efforts to focus on those types of needed businesses

Prohibit undesired uses or development

However, it can define policies to influence the type of development that is needed

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Engagement by the Numbers



349
Community
Questionnaire
Responses



18
Youth
Questionnaire
Responses



4,864
Visits to
Project Website



32
Website Mailing
List Signups



149
IDPlaces Pins
and Comments



3
Community
Meetings



200+
Attendees



21
Comment Cards



3
Steering Committee
Meetings



10
Focus Group
Meetings



Draft Goals and Policies

The goals and policies on this board have been developed based on your input. This is not a comprehensive list; additional goals and policies are included in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. We will continue to refine and develop new goals and policies based on feedback received during this meeting and from community input.

Growth and Development

Goal

New development supports the historic, rural, and agricultural character of Socorro.

Policies

Coordinate with willing agricultural landowners for the use of preservation or conservation easements.

Update the Unified Development Code to include passive and active open space requirements to preserve agricultural areas, with a focus on retaining connections between agricultural uses.

Allow boutique farm and commercial uses that support agrarian uses in coordination with agricultural and open space use.

Establish architectural design standards to ensure visual compatibility with existing historic assets and promote the agricultural heritage of the community.

Partner with Texas A&M University's AgriLife Research and Extension Center to protect open space in conservation easements.

Promote conservation subdivisions and utilize a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to permanently preserve open space, protect the rural character of the community, and reduce development pressure on agricultural land.

Goal

Diverse housing options serve existing and future residents of all ages, incomes, and needs.

Policies

Encourage a range of residential housing types, housing sizes, lot sizes, and densities.

Consider regulatory incentives, such as Housing Tax Credit projects, to expand housing availability and facilitate the development of affordable housing options that are accessible to low- and moderate-income households, including workforce housing, rental units, and homeownership opportunities.

Goal

New businesses and industries diversify employment options and provide livable wages.

Policies

Utilize the Economic Recovery Strategic Plan to identify industry targets and provide incentives to attract desired industries.

Support land uses in designated employment areas that align with emerging economic conditions and the City's target industry sectors such as restaurants, retail, tourism, and trade.

Focus the majority of business attraction efforts on industries that complement the lifestyle of residents, as well as demonstrate regional market demand.

Buffer existing industrial and business park development from encroachment by incompatible development.



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Quality of Life

Goal

Incentives are provided for rehabilitating streetscapes and façade investments that complement historic features around the Socorro Mission, the El Paso Mission Trail, the Rio Vista Community Center, and historic district overlays.

Policies

Update the boundary for Historic Preservation Districts to include a clear map of all properties in the districts.

Create a preservation and beautification incentive toolbox that includes all applicable federal, state, and local funding sources for preservation projects.

Provide at least six façade improvement projects per fiscal year awarded within the Historic Preservation Districts through preservation funding sources within the incentives toolbox.

Support, implement, and encourage community compliance with updated design standards and architectural theming within historically designated areas.

Encourage uses in the historic district overlay that align with heritage tourism, such as restaurants, retail, and entertainment.

Develop design guidelines for redevelopment and new development along the Mission Trail Historic District corridor to protect its character into the future.

Goal

Public awareness and public engagement regarding historic preservation are enhanced.

Policies

Launch educational programs and workshops to raise awareness about the importance of historic preservation.

Engage the community through events like heritage festivals or historic tours.

Work toward a 10% increase in community engagement activities related to historic preservation every year.

Goal

Neighborhood parks are attractive, well-maintained, and have appropriate amenities.

Policies

Establish a maintenance and improvement schedule to ensure the equitable distribution of safe and attractive park facilities throughout the City.

Develop landscaping standards for parks to improve aesthetics while providing heat relief and protection.

Conduct a park survey among residents to identify desired amenities in City parks and seek grant funding or establish donation programs to acquire new amenities.

Goal

Rio Vista Community Center provides a variety of recreational programs and is a multipurpose community gathering and recreation space.

Policies

Incorporate opportunities for educational, cultural, and historical elements that focus on Socorro's history.

Continue to identify funding opportunities and grants to complete the rehabilitation project.



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Public Services and Infrastructure

Goal	A community library enhances educational resources and fosters community engagement, serving as a center for learning and cultural activities.
Policies	
Survey community members to identify the desired materials and programs to be provided at the library.	
Identify sustainable funding sources and select a central location for the library to maximize accessibility.	
Collaborate with local educators and school librarians to develop a relevant and comprehensive collection of materials and programs.	

Goal	Socorro's healthcare infrastructure meets the increasing requirements of the community, and residents of all ages and needs have access to comprehensive medical services.
Policies	
Incentivize the development of new healthcare facilities and the expansion of existing ones through strategic partnerships and funding allocations.	
Collaborate with medical professionals and healthcare organizations to improve the range and quality of services offered.	

Goal	The Rio Vista Community Center is a comprehensive hub for community services and engagement, making it a cornerstone of local interaction and support.
Policies	
Prioritize the rehabilitation of Rio Vista Farm to serve the community and include a civic plaza, recreational and educational amenities, solar energy generation, and a food hub for local community food programs such as aquaponics and a community garden.	
Develop and promote a diverse calendar of programs that address the needs of various demographic groups within the community.	
Establish partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits to fund and facilitate an expanded range of community services.	

Goal	Socorro's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is updated annually to manage infrastructure development effectively, ensuring that it supports the City's strategic goals and meets community needs.
Policies	
Conduct comprehensive assessments of infrastructure needs and prioritize projects based on their potential impact on community growth and well-being.	
Foster community engagement in the CIP development process to ensure transparency and incorporate public input.	



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Community Resilience

Goal

Natural resources are conserved through a reduction in development impacts including natural drainage corridors, native vegetation, and other sensitive natural features of the land.

Policies

Encourage new development to incorporate natural open space into development plans.

Coordinate with agricultural property owners to explore land dedications and density bonus incentives in order to maintain rural open space.

Partner with the Lower Valley Water District or acquire land for parks and trails along drainage corridors and floodways to preserve environmentally sensitive lands, provide recreation opportunities, and promote stormwater management through natural infrastructure.

Goal

Redundant power sources supporting regional and community utility systems exist, minimizing service disruptions.

Policies

Evaluate best practices for community-scale solar energy policies to determine if similar policies could benefit the City of Socorro.

Require solar energy generation facilities to be developed in a manner that does not impact adjacent uses or interfere with wildlife movement or existing development.

Review utility tax, fees, licenses, or other revenue mechanisms that may be applicable to solar and other power-generation facilities.

Goal

Socorro's water resources remain reliable, sustainable, and sufficient as the community grows.

Policies

Improve coordination efforts with the Lower Valley Water District to discover gaps in water service and quality.

Develop low-impact development standards for public street and infrastructure projects that address stormwater and retention.

Partner with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and the El Paso Water Improvement District to ensure water quality and quantity and enhance important natural areas contributing to a natural, healthy community and environment.



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Mobility

Goal

A comprehensive thoroughfare plan map establishes a visionary blueprint for future transportation networks that will enhance citywide connectivity and effectively manage growth.

Policies

Routinely update the Thoroughfare Plan map to identify current and future transportation corridors, potential areas for expansion, and multimodal transit integration points.

Integrate advanced GIS mapping and scenario modeling in the thoroughfare planning process to anticipate and plan for future mobility patterns.

Improve intersections by evaluating the efficiency of dedicated freight lanes where feasible to enhance access and decrease travel times for freight movement.

Goal

Pedestrian routes and active transportation are enhanced by leveraging the Socorro Master Sidewalk Plan for infrastructure investment and locating shared-use paths along urban waterways.

Policies

Allocate funds to revitalize existing sidewalk infrastructure, prioritizing high-density neighborhoods.

Partner with environmental agencies to transform canal banks into vibrant community trails.

Goal

Multimodal transit options integrate innovative traffic calming technologies, expand the number and distance of secure pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, and forge new links that unite residential areas with economic and recreational centers.

Policies

Incentivize the development of multimodal transit hubs in key neighborhood locations.

Establish a citywide network of safety-enhanced multiuse trails connecting key community spaces, with a focus on expanding or connecting existing trail networks such as the Mission Trail and Paso del Norte Trail segments.

Explore funding to develop a bike share program and install bike share stations along the Paso del Norte Trail and along the Mission Trail segment on Socorro Road.

Install electric vehicle charging stations at key activity centers such as City government offices, community centers, and public parks.

Enhance and expand public transit services, including buses and shuttles.