

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM

1. Motion approving City Council Values, Goals, and Tasks for 2022 - 2023
2. Review and amendment of Planning Department Work Plan
3. Overview of Ames Urban Fringe Plan Update Process

DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

MEMO



To: Mayor and Ames City Council Members

From: Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

Date: February 11, 2022

Subject: City Council Values, Goals, and Tasks for January 2022
to December 2023

I am attaching for your review and adoption the list of values and goals that were developed as a result of your discussions at the January 22, 2022 City Council Retreat. Also, included on the attachment is the Staff's attempt to identify the initial set of tasks that are associated with each goal, along with the current estimated completion date.

CITY COUNCIL VALUES, GOALS, AND TASKS

Approved XXXX, 2022
To Be Accomplished by December 31, 2023

WE VALUE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC

GOAL 1: By the end of 2023, develop, test, and evaluate strategies to improve community engagement, particularly underrepresented groups.

Task 1

Completion Goal: Q1 2022

Staff will review the December 2020 report from the Community and Regional Planning 432/532 class and present a report to the City Council recommending which strategy(ies) should be tested.

Task 2

Completion Goal: Q3 2022

City Council will choose a strategy and appropriate funds, if needed, to complete the test.

Task 3

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

The selected strategy will be tested and the results reviewed with the City Council once the test is complete.

WE VALUE DIVERSE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY

GOAL 1: Prioritize and complete the tasks outlined in Ames Plan 2040 that affect housing availability and affordability.

Task 1

Completion Goal: Feb 15, 2022

Staff will present for Council's approval a proposed prioritization of tasks related to housing availability and affordability identified in Ames Plan 2040.

Task 2

Starting Goal: April 2022

Staff will begin work on the approved tasks, starting first with the highest priority.

Task 3

Completion Goal: Q2 2023

Staff will present to City Council a recommended low/moderate income housing strategy, to include: 1) what standardized incentives to offer, 2) addressing impediments in the code (if any), and 3) acquisition of land or existing housing

Task 4

Completion Goal: Q3 2023

City Council will consider whether to adopt the proposed low/moderate income housing strategy

WE VALUE A FUN, VIBRANT, AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY THAT ATTRACTS AND RETAINS PEOPLE

GOAL 1: Implement City programs (parks and recreation, library, etc.) and initiatives (partnerships with others) that educate, train, and engage regarding mental and physical wellness.

Task 1

Completion Goal: Q2 2022

City staff will define mental and physical wellness and develop criteria to measure if a program meets these definitions.

Task 2

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

City staff will inventory current City programs and initiatives, including partnerships with other entities, to determine how many current offerings meet the criteria and then identify if there are gaps in what is being offered regarding mental and physical wellness. This would include determining if the gaps are being met elsewhere in the community.

Task 3

Completion Goal: Q2 2022

Invite community partners, including ISU, the School Districts, human services agencies, and the medical community, to identify opportunities to improve mental and physical wellness in partnership with the City.

Task 4

Completion Goal: Q2 2023

Staff will develop a plan regarding what to continue offering and what new programs are needed to address the identified gaps.

Task 5

Completion Goal: Q3 2023

Staff will implement any new programs that are within its authority and bring to Council any new partnerships that require Council approval to proceed.

GOAL 2: Establish a task force with community partners to identify steps each partner can take to improve workforce recruitment/retention.

Task 1

Completion Goal: Q2 2022

The Mayor will appoint a task force representative of major employers.

Task 2

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

Convene the task force and develop a report containing recommendations to improve workforce recruitment/retention.

Task 3

Completion Goal: Q1 2023

The City Council will review the report from the task force and consider the recommendations made by the task force that are within the Council's ability to influence.

WE VALUE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

GOAL 1: Develop a community-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan that identifies definitions and actionable strategies by the end of 2023.

Task 1

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

Staff will develop an RFP for a consultant to create a plan.

Task 2

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

The City Council will appropriate funding to hire a consultant for this work.

Task 3

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

Staff will issue the RFP and the City Council will select a consultant.

Task 4

Completion Goal: Q1 2023

The Mayor will appoint a task force representing various segments of the community population to work with the DEI Coordinator and consultant to develop the plan.

Task 5

Completion Goal: Q4 2023

The City Council will review the plan and consider the recommendations offered in the plan.

GOAL 2: Implement additional accessible and equitable transportation options for the community (transit, bike, pedestrian, micromobility, rideshare, and others).

Task 1

Completion Goal: Q2 2022

CyRide staff will provide a preliminary analysis to the Transit Board and City Council regarding the concept of universal fare-free CyRide service

Task 2

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

If the Transit Board/City Council wish to further pursue universal fare-free CyRide service after reviewing this preliminary analysis, the Transit Board/City Council will hire a consultant for an in-depth study to be completed before the budgeting season begins.

Task 3

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

Once the in-depth study is received, the Transit Board/City Council will decide by January 2023 whether to include funding in the budget for universal fare-free service.

Task 4

Completion Goal: Q1 2022

City staff will develop an RFP for a consultant to complete a bike/ped master plan.

Status: Complete. The RFP has been issued and responses have been received.

Task 5

Completion Goal: Q1 2022

Issue the RFP, select a consultant, and develop the bike/ped master plan.

Status: In progress. As of February 10, 2022, the RFP has been issued and consultant selection is anticipated in March 2022.

Task 6 **Completion Goal: Q1 2023**
The City Council will review the bike/ped master plan and consider whether to adopt the recommendations of the plan.

Task 7 **Completion Goal: Q4 2022**
Staff will provide the City Council a report regarding micromobility, which will contain: 1) a summary of what other cities are doing, 2) existing City ordinances pertaining to micromobility, and 3) recommendations regarding ordinance changes to enhance micromobility.

Task 8 **Completion Goal: Q1 2023**
The City Council will review the micromobility report and consider whether to adopt any of the recommendations.

Task 9 **Completion Goal: Q3 2023**
Staff will provide the City Council a report regarding rideshare, vanpool, car-sharing, and other potential techniques that provide accessible and equitable transportation in the community.

WE VALUE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL 1: Receive the Climate Action Plan and prioritize and implement Council-approved strategies from it to maintain progress towards the adopted climate goal, and continue pursuing targets of opportunity to achieve greenhouse gas reduction.

Task 1 **Completion Goal: Q3 2022**
Staff will work with the consultant to complete the Climate Action Plan

Task 2 **Completion Goal: Q3 2022**
The City Council will receive from the consultant/staff: 1) the recommended package of strategies from the Climate Action Plan, 2) associated costs, and 3) an implementation plan.

Task 3

Completion Goal: Q4 2022

The City Council will approve a prioritized list of the strategies it wishes to pursue.

Task 4

Starting Goal: Q1 2023

Staff will begin to implement the strategies in the priority order approved by Council.

Task 5

Completion Goal: Q1 2023

Organize a task force to implement Climate Action Plan steps that pertain to individuals, the private sector, and non-city entities (e.g., ISU, DOT, etc.).

Task 6

Completion Goal: Q2 2022

The City Council will receive the Waste-to-Energy study and determine which option to pursue.

Task 7

Completion Goal: Q3 2022

Staff will develop an implementation plan outlining the next steps based on the Waste-to-Energy Option selected by the City Council.

Task 8

Completion Goal: Q3 2022

Staff will provide a report to the City Council regarding residential organized solid waste collection options determine next steps.

Task 9

Completion Goal: Q3 2023

Staff will review electric rebates and opportunities for beneficial electrification and propose changes to maximize greenhouse gas reduction.

Staff Report

PLANNING AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT WORK PLAN PRIORITIES

February 15, 2022

BACKGROUND:

City Council last formerly reviewed the Planning and Housing Department Work Plan in March 2020. City Council has since adopted new Council Goals as well as the Ames Plan 2040. In addition to the typical prioritization of referrals and tasks for implementation of Council Goals, City Council needs to address implementation priorities of Ames Plan 2040.

At the time Ames Plan 2040 was approved, the Implementation Chapter included a list of initiatives categorized as Infrastructure, Plans and Sub-Areas, and Zoning Subdivision Standards. This list captured the most significant needs related to implementing concepts of Plan 2040 in the near term, it is not an all-inclusive list of potential actions for implementation of Plan 2040. The selected categories helped to classify what types of efforts would need to occur to implement the Plan, but they did not specifically tie back to issues identified within the Plan. Staff believes that thinking of the initiatives in the context of different categories such as: Infill/Redevelopment, Housing, Transportation, and Commercial and Other Zoning Issues will assist the City Council in prioritizing specific issues.

Plan 2040 Housing Related Initiatives

- i. City-wide assessment of allowing construction of Accessory Dwelling Units with existing homes. *Staff believes this is intended to be an extensive effort of evaluating options and doing public outreach (300-800 hours).*
- ii. Allow for two-family homes (duplexes) within FS-RL and potentially other zoning districts (50-200 hours). Public outreach will be needed if duplexes are allowed in existing areas.
- iii. Update FS-RL and FS-RM zoning to reflect intended densities and building types for Growth Areas (80 hours)
- iv. Modify F-VR zoning for use in Growth Areas (40-150 hours)

Plan 2040 Infill Related Initiatives

- i. East and West University Impact Area standards review, including parking and how to implement zoning for the RN-4 land use designation within the West University Impact Overlay. (100-300 hours)
- ii. Urban Corridor Designation along Lincoln Way (west of Campustown), needs implementation zoning that does not exist. (100 to 180 hours)
- iii. Create design standards for desired small scale infill projects, applies to multiple issues and zoning districts. (150-300 hours)
- iv. University Overlay for Redirection Area Hunt and Sheldon, rezone area for redevelopment (100 to 200 hours)
- v. South Lincoln Mixed Use Plan from Cherry to Walnut, new Plan and rezoning (300-

500 hours)

Plan 2040 Commercial and Other Standards Related Initiatives

- i. Implement commercial use designation changes, requires new General Commercial zoning district with changes to Highway Oriented Commercial and Planned Regional Commercial zoning district, see also Urban Corridor designation listed under Infill (120-200 hours)
- ii. Parkland dedication ordinance (75-125 hours)
- iii. Review commercial zoning district standards for consistency with Growth Area plans. (40 hours)

Plan 2040 Transportation Related Initiatives

- i. Modify Chapter 23 Subdivision Code with terminology and concepts of the Complete Street Plan. Includes changes to ROW widths, street types, pedestrian and bicycle improvement specifications. (100 – 200 hours)
- ii. Update Zoning Ordinance standards to reflect Complete Street concepts, includes design requirements to match street types aimed at walkability (60 hours, in tandem with Chapter 23)
- iii. Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Public Works lead department) related updates to planning concepts within Ames Plan 2040 and development standards of zoning (40 hours)

Plan 2040 Plans and Sub-areas Related Initiatives

- i. Ames Urban Fringe Plan Update (Already committed-250 hours Story County, additional time for final plans with Boone County)
- ii. Gateway and beautification plan for rights of way.(Initial report 100 hours)
- iii. Parks Master Plan Update (P&R lead department) as it relates to land use plans and parkland standards (Not budgeted for 2023/23)
- iv. Redirection Areas, select specific areas like Grove Avenue for individual consideration. (50-500 hours)
- v. Infrastructure Project Planning guide for short (1-5 year) and mid-term (5-10 year) priorities in the CIP. (60 hours)

COMMITTED PROJECTS:

Committed projects are either ongoing projects or prior directives of the City Council that are not yet complete. This list includes the Fringe Plan Update and a placeholder for Plan 2040 Initiatives. Attachment A includes a list of 18 projects and their status. Staff deleted an item related to working on the 13th Street Development Site with Elwell Company's due to inactivity. Of the 18 projects, two are related primarily to the Housing Division (Baker Subdivision, CARES/ARP funding). Staff believes four to six of the committed projects will be completed within the next 90 days, such as the Reinvestment District application, TIF Subdivision Development Agreement, Plaza and Public art specifications, and Grove Avenue rezoning. The remaining items are either long term projects or have not yet been started.

NON-COMMITTED PROJECTS:

In addition to the prioritized projects, there is a list of non-prioritized projects as Attachment B. This includes a broad range of topics that have been referred in the past, but not prioritized. Two items on the list are referrals for which City Council received memos dated February 11, 2022 as part of the non-agenda packet.

STAFF COMMENTS:

While the City Council will make the final decision regarding the department's work plan, the staff is offering for your consideration the following projects for the next two years (See Attachment C for phasing schedule):

Plan 2040 Projects Related To Housing

- City-wide assessment of allowing construction of Accessory Dwelling Units with existing homes. *Staff believes this is intended to be an extensive effort of evaluating options and doing public outreach (300-800 hours).*
- Allow for two-family homes (duplexes) within FS-RL and potentially other zoning districts (50-200 hours). Public outreach will be needed if duplexes are allowed in existing areas.
- Update FS-RL and FS-RM zoning to reflect intended densities and building types for Growth Areas (80 hours)
- Modify F-VR zoning for use in Growth Areas (40-150 hours)

NOTE: The first four projects are identified as top priorities in accordance with the City Council's new goals.

Plan 2040 Project Related To Transportation

- Update Chapter 23 Subdivision Code for Complete Streets requirements in conjunction with Public Works (100-200 hours)

Plan 2040 Project Related To Infill/Redevelopment

- Review existing design standards for infill priorities and small multi-family housing options to determine changes should be made. (This project relates to multiple initiatives (150-250 hours))

Two Additional Projects Suggested By Staff That Are Not Part Of Plan 2040

- Develop a Low and Moderate Income Housing Strategy addressing zoning constraints (if any), financial incentives, site acquisition for new construction, locations for existing house acquisition and rehabilitation projects. (150-200 hours)

- Address current language in Zoning Ordinance related to front yard parking when it does not lead to a garage or a side yard. The current language has resulted in inconsistent application to non-conforming properties and driveway widenings. Staff is working through various enforcement concerns related to front yard parking, driveway permits, and rental inspections. A review of the front yard parking standard would be beneficial to effective administration of the standard and provide clarity to a large set of property owners with recent front yard paving for parking. (100-150 hours)

Committed Projects

Staff will also work on the projects that were previously prioritized by the City Council.

Attachment A-Current Priorities

February 2022 Planning and Housing Department Work Plan

Project	Status	Next Steps
Affordable Housing Development Baker Subdivision and LIHTC Project	Selected Prairie Fire as LIHTC Developer, Homebuyer program initiated, infrastructure substantially complete	Awaiting word on State assistance for Prairie Fire LIHTC project. Update planned for February 22, 2022. Beginning homebuyer education classes, preparing for modular home construction and other lot sales.
Downtown subarea planning (parking)	Small apartment exception and overnight parking permits approved.	Consider remote parking changes for residential parking for projects with more than 18 units.
Ames Plan 2040	City Council approval December 14, 2022	City Council to prioritize implementation program March 2022. See separate list of implementation priorities.
Downtown Plaza Development	Completing bid documents.	City Council will approve final plans and specifications Winter 2022.
Downtown Signature Art Piece RFQ	Selection committee reviewing responses.	Present committee recommendation March 2022.
Reinvestment District and Lincoln Way Mixed Use (The Linc)	Urban Renewal Area approved fall 2021. Preparing final application and fiscal analysis with City consultant (Design Innovations) City Council reviewed preliminary concept of Lincoln Way Mixed Use Development November 2021.	City Council approval of Reinvestment District application February 22, 2022. Continue to review LW Mixed Use Development and negotiate development agreement, Spring 2022.
Sign Code Updates	This will be a two-part process as described to City Council in March 2020. Planning and Inspections staff are preparing first set of changes for review focused on definitions, fee structure, loopholes, and legal consistency.	Not initiated.
General zoning text amendments	Ongoing	Administration and application procedures updates planned Spring 2022, includes changes to Zoning Enforcement Officer Role and ZBA support.
Rental conversion incentives	Not started	TBD
Beautification and Gateway Plans - City Council Goal	Not started-Listed as Plan 2040 Implementation Measure	First step would be to provide an inventory and report to Council to refine scope of this task. TBD
CARES Act funding for Rent, Mortgage, and Utility assistance, other ARP funds	Ongoing	Begin administration of Cares Act Round 2 and 3 funding, plan for future use of ARP funds.
Ames Urban Fringe Plan extension and planning update with Story County	Council extended the Fringe Plan 28 E agreement by one year and directed staff to work with the County in 2021 on potential updates.	City Council review proposed scope of update and schedule on February 15, 2022. Anticipate Fringe Plan Update approval in the summer 2022.

Attachment A-Current Priorities

		Desires to engage with Boone County as well with the Fringe Plan update.
Industrial Small Lot TIF Subdivision RFP	One RFP received.	City Council to review proposal and development agreement March 8, 2022.
Grove Avenue Rezoning/Redirection Area	City Council initiated rezoning to RM.	Staff hold property owner outreach meeting, begin rezoning process spring 2022.
Historic Preservation Plan Update	City Council approved amendments.	HPC reviewing recommendation for implementation priorities on February 14 th .. Staff will provide update on February 15, 2022.
Historic Resource Survey Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Neighborhood Survey	Notice of Grant Award from SHPO.	Accept grant agreement from SHPO. HPC to perform survey with ISU students in 2022/23. Staff assist in admin.
Climate Action Plan	Provide support on technical committee.	TBD
Discuss zoning of West Towne Apartments to allow apartments on ground floor in CCR Zoning.	City Council directed staff to meet with Owner about affordable housing.	Staff has met with the owner and discussing parameters. Report back to Council in February/March 2022.

Non-Prioritized Project List

Date Referred	Description	Comments
1/12/2016	Review demolition criteria in the O-UIE in general, including hardship elements	
1/12/2016	Review demolition criteria in the O-UIE to add criteria for historic preservation and to evaluate sustainability (life cycle evaluation) of demolition vs. rehabilitation.	
1/2020	Review Downtown Façade Program Requirements	Initial request 2016, most recent request by Main Street for façade program changes January 2020. Staff would support adding historic preservation, i.e. window repair, option for contributing buildings. Additional changes require discussion by City Council.
5/16/2017	Review outdoor sales standards for commercial areas. This includes fireworks and other outdoor display.	Would also address food truck locations.
10/16/2018	Begin working with neighborhood associations to develop recommendations for improving the Neighborhood Association program.	Staff has worked on this incrementally as time permits, no formal proposal at this time
2/12/2019	Referred to staff for a memo the letter from Chuck Winkleblack concerning two billboards on the two- block stretch on the north side of Lincoln Way between Clark and Kellogg	Awaiting Legal review of issues.
5/28/2019	Review zoning requirements for landscaping on private property to determine if they are compatible with CPTED principles.	

5/14/2019	Hold off any final decision regarding plaza in Campustown until final decision is made regarding relocating Fire Station #2 and completion of Welch improvements.	On hold- Recommend delete.
7/23/2019	Request to respond to Kurt Friedrich's letter for the Council to consider greater incentives for infrastructure for residential developments.	Staff researching comparable Cities and reviewing with City Manager
10/8/2019	Requested staff memo regarding zoning recommendation for the lot west of old KFC lot on LW.	No change needed for existing uses. Recommend delete.
2/25/2020	Letter from Justin Dodge on Champlin Property roadway improvement requirements and costs	Annexation is currently tabled by Council. Property has been sold by the Champlin family. Not relevant any longer-Remove.
5/11/2021	Request by CAA to consider broad changes to façade grant program for Campustown	Staff met to discuss with CAA and highlight priorities. CAA is no longer active. Staff supports minor modifications to application requirements as a rolling submittal process. Staff would need further direction from Council to address any other issues about the program standards or funding that were previously identified by CAA.
1/11/2022	Request for text amendment to flag lots for industrial zoned properties.	Memo provided to City Council on 2-11-22.
1/25/2022	Request for creating a URA in support of affordable housing by the Annex Group within the Hayden's Preserve development at Hyde/190 th Street	Memo provided to City Council on 2-11-22.

Staff Report

AMES URBAN FRINGE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

February 15, 2022

BACKGROUND:

State law allows for a city to review and approve subdivisions within 2 miles of the city limits in order to plan for orderly growth and needed infrastructure improvements. This allows for the City to review plats of survey and subdivisions that are outside of the City. Currently, Ames works cooperatively with Gilbert and Story County through a 28-E agreement to streamline subdivision review in the County based upon the Ames Urban Fringe Plan. The 28-E provides for cooperative planning and streamlined subdivision review based upon each Jurisdiction's primary interests. The City has no 28-E agreement with Boone County and, therefore, reviews all divisions that occur in Boone County within 2-miles of the City.

The Ames Urban Fringe Plan was developed in 2006 after multiple years of public outreach and coordination with Story County and Gilbert. The basis of the Plan was the City's 1997 Land Use Policy Plan along with interests of Story County and Gilbert. Ultimately, the Plan with along with a 28-E agreement, were approved in 2011. The 28E agreement was for an initial five-year period with an automatic five-year extension, for a total of ten years. The Plan was extended cooperatively by all parties in 2021 until July 2022.

The current Fringe Plan addresses two primary policy issues related to future annexation areas and intensity of rural development. The entire 2006 Fringe Plan document can be found at this link [Fringe Plan](#). The Fringe Plan relies upon a two-map system to identify the location of applicable policies. The Plan includes a Land Use Classification Map (Attachment A) to identify rural areas, transition areas, and areas intended for annexation. The Fringe Plan includes a second map labeled as the Land Use Framework Map (Attachment C) that includes land use designations that relate to the use of property while it is in the County.

The related 28-E Agreement (Attachment C) describes the responsibilities of each cooperator and identifies subdivision review responsibilities, annexation requirements, and how to process amendments to the Fringe Plan. Neither the Fringe Plan nor the 28-E directly affect zoning, but the County uses the Fringe Plan as part of their Comprehensive Plan to guide zoning decisions.

With the adoption of Ames Plan 2040, the City of Ames established basic policy interests that related to management of the Fringe Area. Growth and Land Use chapter describe

the City's annexation policies and the concept of an Urban Reserve is depicted on the MAP (Attachment D and E). The Urban Reserve map carried over natural area and rural residential designations from the current Fringe Plan. **Based upon Plan 2040 plans for future growth it is appropriate to update the Ames Urban Fringe Plan to reflect the current interests of the City of Ames and identify common interests and goals that relate to Boone County, Story County, and to the overlapping 2-mile area with Gilbert.**

Many of the fundamental interests of the current Fringe Plan's policies still apply to the Fringe Area and can be carried forward into a new Plan. **City staff believes that there are needed changes to reflect new Plan 2040 policies and mapping, updates to subdivision review processes in rural areas, and updates to Natural Area designations.** This requires both changes to the Plan as well as a new 28-E agreement in order for cooperative administer the Fringe Area.

Although Ames Plan 2040 identifies general fringe management policy for the City, at the time of adoption of Ames Plan 2040 it was contemplated that an update to the more precise Fringe Plan would be needed to fully define policy issues related to the fringe area. The Fringe Plan land use designations and mapping would have a more precise mapping delineation and detailed supportive polices. Depending on the outcome of the update process, amendments to Ames Plan 2040 would also accompany approval of the Fringe Plan update.

Coordination of the Urban Reserve designation mapping with rural development interests and City of Ames plans for future annexation areas will be a core issue of the update. The current Fringe Plan designation does not align completely with the Ames Plan 2040 future land use map or the City's tiers analysis that evaluated multiple growth scenarios for the City. **Clarifying how the City plans to annex land in growth areas and plan for future growth based upon the Plan 2040 scenario analysis are a priority for City staff while updating the Plan.**

City staff also has identified specific interests related to:

- a. Minimizing new areas for rural subdivisions adjacent to Ames,
- b. Limiting the minor subdivision process called Residential Parcel Subdivisions that can create in effect four housing sites where only one was originally anticipated an ag and a farm service class areas,
- c. Addressing compatibility of conditional uses in the County within Urban Reserve areas,
- d. Siting of Wind Energy Conversion (WEC) systems,
- e. Planning for airport expansion,
- f. Updating Natural Area and resource mapping with updates of related development policies, and
- g. Enhancing integration of rural parks, open space, and trails into the land use plan.

Staff also believes changes to map designations and focusing on one land use map rather than a two-map system may be beneficial for administrative ease as well.

Story County has identified issues that they have an interest in seeing addressed with an updated Fringe Plan (Attachment F). The County's stated interests in some ways reinforce the City's perspective on the benefits of urban growth over rural growth while also highlighting desires for coordinated management of the Fringe. Story County indicates that they would take the lead on outreach and work on the Fringe Plan in conjunction with City of Ames Planning staff. City staff anticipates that if competing interests are identified during development of the draft plan that respective staff's can return to their Council's or Board for more direction. A joint meeting to discuss a Draft Plan may also be desirable in the process as occurred during the initial process of preparing the 2006 Fringe Plan.

The process to update the Fringe Plan is designed to build off of the prior plan and incorporate new elements of Plan 2040. **The process is not intended to start from scratch and develop a wholly new plan and set of priorities. County and City staff believe the best approach for doing an update is for staff to develop a draft plan and land use map and then seek public input on a complete draft plan.** This will help focus on areas or policies that are changes to current policies rather than spending time reviewing commonly agreed upon principles for the Fringe Plan.




Staff believes that in addition to working with Story County to develop a new Fringe Plan and 28-E agreement, the City should also engage with Boone County about planning for west expansion with a 28-E agreement. Ultimately the Fringe Plan would cover both areas, Story and Boone County as it does now, but it may require two separate 28-E agreements depending on the relationships and commitments needed to jointly administer the Fringe Area.

To move forward with Story County staff on a Fringe Plan update, staff requests the City Council:

- 1) Discuss any additional policy issues or concerns related to the Fringe Area not mentioned above that can guide City staff while developing a new draft plan, and**
- 2) Accept the proposed update process with Story County as the lead while working in conjunction with City of Ames staff to prepare a draft plan for public comment and review prior to holding hearings on approving a new plan, and**
- 3) Direct City of Ames staff to reach out to the Boone County Board of Supervisors to discuss Fringe Planning and a 28-E agreement as part of the Fringe Plan Update process.**

Attachment A 2006 Land Use Class Map Excerpt

It is clear from the research and projections that change is taking place in the Ames Urban Fringe. It contains both rural and urban conditions and areas where one condition is changing to another. By its nature, it accommodates fundamentally different types of land use. Reflecting this, and to balance the issues, land uses and policies for the Ames Urban Fringe are grouped into three separate classes:

-  - Rural Service and Agricultural Conservation Area;
-  - Rural/Urban Transition Area; and
-  - Urban Service Area.



Summary Text from Ames Urban Fringe Plan

Land Use Designations for Rural Service and Agricultural Conservation Area

Agriculture and Farm Service – Farming and agricultural production; industry and commerce that need to be close to agriculture; farmsteads, farmstead sites and pre-existing homes.

Parks and Recreation Areas – privately owned recreation, conservations and related uses, with rural services and decentralized systems.

Rural Residential – Single-family residences at one unit per acre or lower density, with rural services and decentralized systems; protect agricultural operations and environment.

Land Use Designations for Rural/Urban Transition Area

Rural Transitional Residential – Single- and two-family residences at densities from one unit per acre to 3.75 units per acre, preferably in clusters, with rural services and decentralized systems; in some cases, urban services for future use or assessment waivers and other agreements about future costs and annexation.

Highway-Oriented Commercial – Commercial uses most compatible with rural areas, located on high-traffic roads and preferably in clusters; urban services; in some cases, rural services and decentralized systems with assessment waivers, other agreements on future costs and annexation.

Agriculture/Subsurface Mining – Farming and agricultural production; farmsteads, farmstead sites and pre-existing homes; with limestone resources suitable for subsurface mining.

General Industrial – Surface portion of existing subsurface mining operation.

Priority Transitional Residential – Single-family residences at densities above 3.75 units per acre, preferably in clusters, with rural services and common systems; urban services for future use or assessment waivers and other agreements about future costs; development agreements; annexation agreements.

Industrial Reserve/Research Park – Agricultural uses; future expansion of ISU Research Park with innovative technology companies supported by proximity to ISU; before development, change to Planned Industrial land use designation.

Agriculture/Long-Term Industrial Reserve – Farming and agricultural production; farmsteads, farmstead sites and pre-existing homes; future large-scale industrial uses; before development, change to Planned Industrial land use designation.

Natural Areas – Environmentally sensitive areas; significant natural habitat; public parks and open space; future parks; greenways; farmsteads, farmstead sites and pre-existing homes.

Gateway Protection – Land uses and design that defines, accentuates and enhances entrance areas to community.

Watershed Protection Area – Watersheds for wetlands and with vegetation that protects or improves water quality; mitigation facilities; Best Management Practices.

Airport Protection Area – Land close to airport; development characteristic that protects life and maintains integrity of aviation operations.

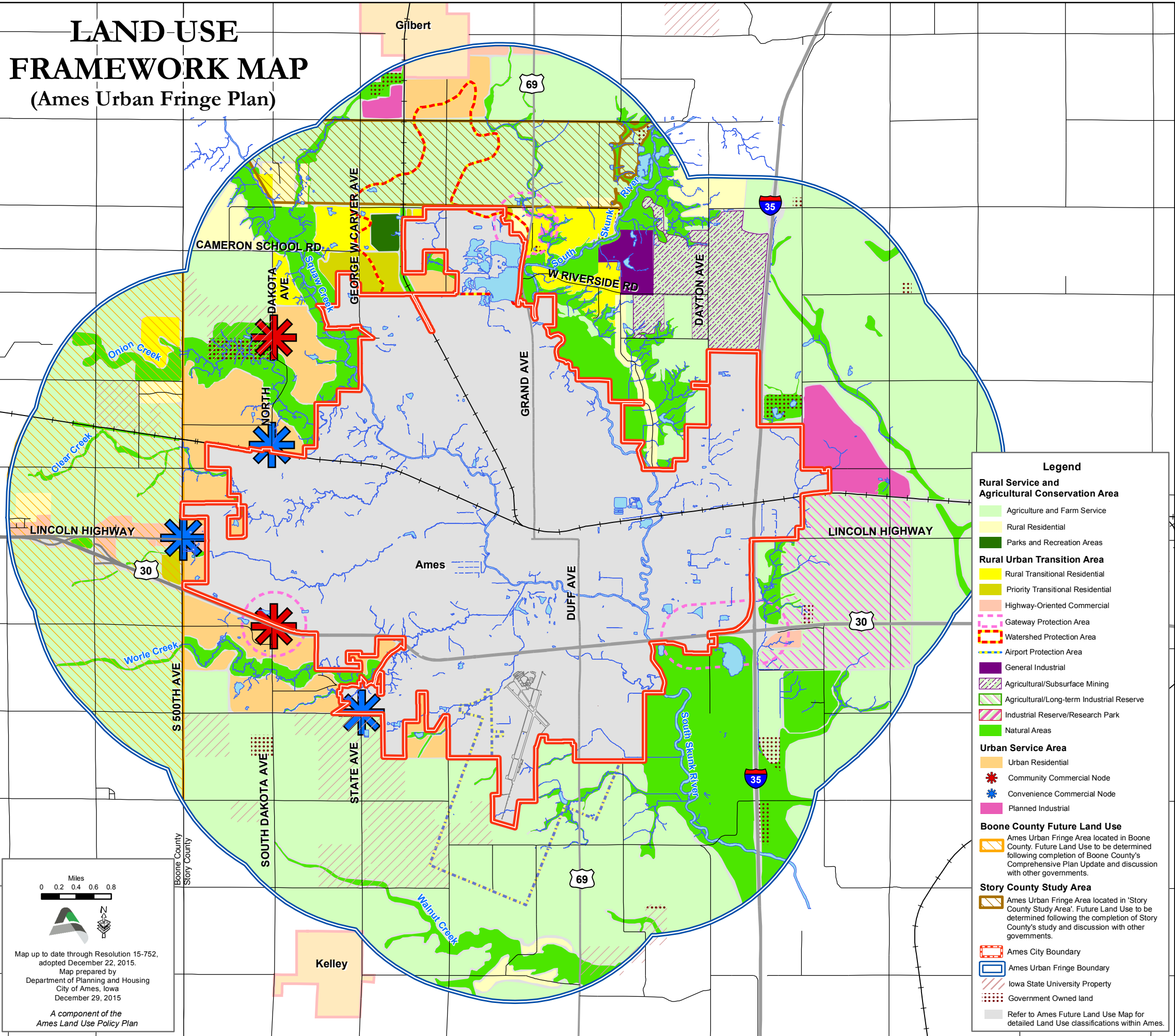
Land Use Designations for Urban Service Area

Urban Residential – Village residential developments at densities above 8 units per acre; suburban/single-family residential developments at densities above 3.75 units per acre; suburban/medium density residential development at densities above 10 units per acre; annexation; urban services: development agreements.

Planned Industrial – Large-scale industrial uses clustered in industrial parks; annexation; urban services: development agreements.

Community Commercial Node – Clustered commercial uses up to 800,000 square feet per cluster; annexation; urban services: development agreements.

Convenience Commercial Node – Clustered commercial uses that serve convenience and localized neighborhood needs; up to 100,000 square feet per cluster; annexation; urban services: development agreements.



Attachment C

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Instrument: 2011- 00006589
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Susan L. Vande Kamp, County Recorder

Prepared by Doug Marek, City of Ames, 515 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50011 (515-239-5146)
Return to Diane Voss, City of Ames, 515 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA 50011 -0811

(env)

**AMES URBAN FRINGE
JOINT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
[Pursuant to Code of Iowa, Chapter 28E]**

This Joint and Cooperative Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") is entered into pursuant to the authority of the *Code of Iowa*, Chapter 28E on this 11 day of July, 2011 by and between Story County, Iowa, (hereinafter referred to as "County"); the City of Ames, Iowa (hereinafter referred to as "Ames"); and the City of Gilbert, Iowa (hereinafter referred to as "Gilbert"). The two cities shall be referred to hereinafter collectively as "Cities", and all three entities collectively as the "Cooperators".

WHEREAS, continued growth and development within the two mile extraterritorial jurisdiction area of Ames requires increased coordination among the Cooperators to achieve better land use management and control of development within the area; and

WHEREAS, the two mile extraterritorial jurisdiction area of Gilbert overlaps into significant portions of the Fringe Area; and

WHEREAS, the councils of Cities have previously asserted the two mile extraterritorial jurisdiction over land divisions available to them pursuant to the *Code of Iowa*, Chapter 354; and

WHEREAS, the long range, comprehensive planning documents of each Cooperator establish goals and policies that promote the rational and efficient development of land in furtherance of the social and economic well-being of its respective citizens; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of Cooperators have determined that the best method for achieving such rational and efficient development is through a coordinated program of inter-jurisdictional land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the *Code of Iowa*, Chapter 28E were adopted to facilitate such inter-jurisdictional cooperative efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperators have heretofore developed and approved in July of 2006, pursuant to public notice, hearing and decision, a document entitled "Ames Urban Fringe Plan" (hereinafter referred to as "Plan") that sets forth specific understandings, goals and policies to guide and control the future development of the fringe area; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperators now seek to provide a legal mechanism for the implementation of the Plan through the adoption of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, each Cooperator has determined, and deems, that it is in the best interests of the Cooperator and the most efficient use of the Cooperator's power and authority with respect to land use planning within the Fringe Area, that the County and Cities enter into this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of the *Code of Iowa*, Chapter 28E.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Compliance with the Plan

The Cooperators agree to observe, follow, and comply with all policies for development in the Fringe Area as set forth in the Plan, and its approved attachments, including the Land Use Classes Map and the Land Use Framework Map, in establishing and amending land use regulations within the territory of the Fringe Area.

Section 2. Reference to Planning Documents

The Plan and its accompanying maps, approved July, 2006, and as subsequently amended, are hereby adopted as the guiding documents for development in the Fringe Area.

Section 3. Protecting Agricultural Operations

It is agreed and understood by the Cooperators that neither this Agreement, nor any policy set forth in the Plan, shall interfere with the agricultural exemption as provided by *Code of Iowa*, Section 335.2.

Section 4. Fringe Area Boundary

The area within which this Agreement shall be known as the Ames Urban Fringe as specifically established by the Plan. It may also be known as the Fringe Area or Planning Area.

Section 5. Administration of the Plan

It is the purpose of this Agreement to provide for an alternative, and more efficient, method for the regulation and processing of development within the Fringe Area. To achieve this purpose, Cities and County agree that each will waive the exercise of some portion of its otherwise existing land use authority in order to facilitate the operation of this Agreement in the manner hereinafter set forth in this Section 5. Where an existing land use authority is not specifically referenced in this Section 5, it shall continue to be normally exercised unless it would render one or more of the following subsections inoperative, in which case it shall be deemed to be waived to the extent necessary to give effect to any subsection hereof. In any instance when a Cooperator seeks to exercise its land use authority, including but not limited to Conceptual Reviews,

Annexations, Change of Zone, and Sketch Plans, in the Fringe Area, it shall notify the other Cooperators within ten (10) days of submittal of an application for such action.

5.1 County Zoning Regulations:

5.1.1 Story County Land Development Regulations. Zoning regulations for unincorporated Story County are under the authority of Story County through the adoption of the *Story County Land Development Regulations* and the provisions of *Code of Iowa*, Chapter 335.

5.1.1.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed or applied to limit the County's legislative authority or discretion in adopting or amending its land use regulations.

5.1.1.2 The A-2, Agribusiness Zoning District, defined in the *Story County Land Development Regulations*, is intended and designed to provide for those activities strongly interrelated with agricultural uses and must therefore be located in agricultural areas. While the Plan recognizes that there are industrial and commercial land uses which are dependent on proximity to local agricultural land uses and which are essential to the continued feasibility of farming in the County, it furthermore seeks to strategically locate such uses. With the growth of the agri-business and agri-technology industries, the Cooperators agree that the intensities of uses allowed in the A-2 Zoning District could escalate beyond what each of the Cooperators may have individually envisioned or intended for identified agricultural areas. Further, the Plan creates Planned Industrial and Industrial Reserve areas in which the Cooperators will invest or have invested in infrastructure to accommodate more intense uses. Some uses in the A-2 Zoning District are incompatible with the Agriculture and Farm Services designation in the Plan. Therefore, the County agrees to limit the intensity of uses allowed within the A-2 Zoning District outside of said Planned Industrial and Industrial Reserve areas through Conditional Rezoning Agreements that allow all permitted uses in the A-2 Zoning District except the storage, retail or wholesale marketing, or processing of agricultural products into a value added agricultural product.

5.1.2 Official Zoning Map of Story County, Iowa. Amendments to the Official Zoning Map of Story County, Iowa within the Fringe Area shall conform to the goals and policies set forth in the Plan and the Land Use Framework Map.

5.1.2.1 All applications for amending the Official Zoning Map of Story County, Iowa will be processed in accordance with the requirements set forth in the *Story County Land Development Regulations*.

5.1.2.2 County shall not take action on any request to amend the Official Zoning Map of Story County, Iowa, within the Fringe Area when such request is accompanied by a request to amend the Plan.

5.1.2.2.1 Such request to amend the Plan shall be acted upon by all Cooperators as provided for in Section 6.2 of this Agreement prior to action by the County on an amendment to the Official Zoning Map of Story County, Iowa.

5.1.3 Non-conforming Properties. Properties zoned a classification inconsistent with this Agreement or the Plan as determined by the Cooperators, as of the date this Agreement is executed, shall not be deemed to be in violation of this Agreement or the Plan, as long as such zoning remains in effect on the property.

5.2 Subdivision Regulations:

- 5.2.1 **Rural Service and Agricultural Conservation Area Designation.** In areas designated Rural Service and Agricultural Conservation Area in the Plan, Cities agree to waive the exercise of their extra-territorial subdivision authority and application of their respective related design and improvement standards.
- 5.2.2 **Rural/Urban Transition Area Designation.** In areas designated Rural/Urban Transition Area in the Plan, Cooperators shall apply Subdivision Review Procedures as described in Attachment A. However, Agricultural Subdivisions in the Rural/Urban Transitional Area shall be processed solely by the County.
- 5.2.3 **Urban Service Areas Designation.** In areas designated Urban Services Area in the Plan, County agrees to waive the exercise of its subdivision authority.

5.3 Annexation:

- 5.3.1 **Planning Area Boundary.** In consideration of the fact that annexation has the effect of extending the two-mile extraterritorial subdivision plat review area as defined by the Code of Iowa beyond the Planning Area Boundary defined in the Plan, Cooperators understand and agree that Cities shall waive their extra-territorial jurisdiction in such extended area, and that County shall approve pursuant to such waiver and within such extended area, only those subdivisions meeting the definition of Agricultural Subdivisions, which shall be so designated on the face of each Final Plat. Alternatively, a property owner may request the Cooperators to amend the Plan to extend the Planning Area. Such request shall be processed as provided for in Section 6 of this Agreement.
- 5.3.2 **Annexation in Accordance with Plan.** Cities agree to annex territory in accordance with the goals and policy statements set forth in the Plan.
- 5.3.3 **Annexation of Property within the Rural Service and Agricultural Conservation Areas.** In areas designated Rural Service and Agricultural Conservation Area in the Plan, Cities shall not review annexation requests until such time the Plan has been amended to designate such property as Urban Service Area and then such annexation processed in accordance with this Agreement.
- 5.3.4 **Annexation of Property within the Rural/Urban Transition Areas** In areas designated Rural/Urban Transition Area in the Plan, Cities shall not review annexation requests until such time the Plan has been amended to designate such property as Urban Service Area and then such annexation processed in accordance with this Agreement.
- 5.3.5 **Annexation of Property within the Urban Service Area.** It is the Cooperators' intent that Cities will annex all property within the Urban Service Area. Such annexation will occur only after Cities gives full consideration to comprehensive plan policies, degree of contiguity to the City limits, proximity to existing City services, the cost of extending City services, the fiscal impact and funding sources for providing City services, and the development needs of the City.

- 5.3.6 **Annexation of Right-of-Way.** When undertaking any annexation of land within the Fringe Area, Cities shall annex the entire width of public rights-of-way located within and immediately adjacent to such lands.

Section 6. Plan Review and Amendment

6.1 Plan Review

At any time during the term of this Agreement, either the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors or a Mayor of either of the Cities may initiate a review of the Plan by providing a notice in writing of the intent to so review.

6.2 Amending the Ames Urban Fringe Plan

- 6.2.1 The Plan may be amended at any time following a review pursuant to Section 6.1 above, or upon petition by a Property Owner. As the Ames Urban Fringe Plan shall be adopted by each of the Cooperators as a part of their respective comprehensive plans, the procedures of adopting an amendment to the comprehensive plan is unique to each Cooperator, subject to meeting the notification requirements of Code of Iowa. Each Cooperator shall process an amendment to the Plan as an amendment to their comprehensive plan.
- 6.2.2 Upon the approval of a proposed amendment by the governing body of all Cooperators, notice shall be made to all other cooperators within twenty (20) business days. The amendment shall be effective upon receipt by the other Cooperators of all such notices.
- 6.2.3 Outside its two-mile extra-territorial zone, Gilbert shall have the right to participate in the approval process only of those Plan amendments where there is reasonable expectation of significant cumulative impact on Gilbert resulting from the amendment. In assessing the potential impact, both the magnitude of possible impact, as well as the geographic proximity to Gilbert of the possible impact, shall be considered.
- 6.2.4 Cooperators have agreed to an administrative process for the consideration of Plan amendments, which process is set forth on Attachment C, Plan Amendment Process, and incorporated herein for all purposes.
- 6.2.5 It is understood and agreed that the provisions of Attachment C may be revised from time to time by an affirmative vote of the governing body of each Cooperator.

Section 7. Amendment of Agreement

- 7.1 This Agreement may be amended at any time by an affirmative vote of the governing body of all Cooperators. Any Cooperator desiring an amendment to this Agreement shall notify the other Cooperators of its desire, and the reasons for the request.
- 7.2 Such request shall be in writing to the other Cooperators, and shall be considered without unreasonable delay and within no more than ninety (90) days of receipt.
- 7.3 If the request is agreed to by the other Cooperators, each Cooperator shall prepare and submit to the others a certified resolution confirming the affirmative vote of the Cooperator's governing body.

7.4 The amendment shall take effect ten (10) days following receipt of the last such resolution by the other Cooperators. Amendments shall be filed and recorded as required by Section 14 hereof.

Section 8. Termination of Agreement.

- 8.1 It is the intent of this Section to provide the sole and exclusive method for termination of the mutual rights and obligations of Cooperators pursuant to this Agreement.
- 8.2 The governing body of any Cooperator may terminate this Agreement at any time, and for any reason, by approving a resolution of notice of intent to terminate to the other Cooperators, such termination shall not be effective for one hundred twenty (120) days following receipt by the other Cooperators.
- 8.3 If, at the time of the giving of such notice, a Cooperator is in breach of this Agreement, it is understood and agreed that the actions of Cooperator giving rise to such breach shall be null, void and of no force or effect whatsoever, ab initio, and that for such actions to be effective will have to be repeated following termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 8.
- 8.4 During these one hundred twenty days, Cooperators shall seek to resolve issues, if any, that gave rise to the notice of intent to terminate through direct meetings of governing bodies, mediation, or other means to which all parties shall agree.
- 8.5 During these one hundred twenty days no waiver of governmental power established by this agreement shall be effective.
- 8.6 If resolution is not achieved after one hundred twenty days, the governing body of the Cooperator who initiated the notice of intent to terminate the agreement may approve a resolution terminating the agreement effective thirty (30) days following receipt of a certified resolution by the other Cooperators.

Section 9. Effective Period.

This Agreement shall become effective as of the date first set forth above, following acceptance and execution by the parties, and shall be in effect for five (5) years after such date, unless earlier terminated pursuant to Section 8 above. This Agreement shall be automatically renewed for an additional five years unless any Cooperator objects in writing to such renewal no less than one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the termination date.

Section 10. No Separate Legal/Administrative Entity Created.

It is the intention of this Agreement that there be no new or additional legal or administrative entity created by this Agreement, nor that the inherent governmental powers of any Cooperator be affected in any way beyond the terms of this Agreement. It is further agreed and understood by the parties hereto that no financial obligations upon any Cooperator are intended to be created hereby.

Section 11. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement represents the entire understanding between the Cooperators and no Cooperator is relying on any representation or understanding which may have been made by another Cooperator and which is not included in this Agreement.

Section 12. Severability/Invalidity

If any term, provision or condition of this Agreement shall be determined to be invalid by a court of law, such invalidity shall in no way effect the validity of any other term, provision or condition of this Agreement, and the remainder of the Agreement shall survive in full force and effect unless to do so would substantially impair the rights and obligations of the parties to this Agreement or substantially frustrate the attainment of the purposes of this Agreement.

Section 13. Notices.

Notices under this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered to the representative of the party to receive notice (identified below) at the address of the party designated to receive notice for each Cooperator as set forth in this Agreement. The effective date for any notice under this Agreement shall be the date of actual delivery of such notice and not the date of dispatch. The preferred means of notice shall be either actual hand delivery, certified US Mail, return receipt requested with postage prepaid thereon, or by recognized overnight delivery service, such as FedEx or UPS.

Notices shall be delivered to the following persons at each Cooperator:

County: Chairperson, Story County Board of Supervisors
 Story County Administration
 900 6th Street
 Nevada, Iowa 50201

Ames: Mayor, City of Ames
 City Hall
 515 Clark Avenue
 Ames, IA 50010

Gilbert Mayor, City of Gilbert
 City Hall
 119 Main Street
 Gilbert, IA 50105

Section 14. Recordation

This Agreement shall be recorded pursuant to the requirements of *Code of Iowa*, Chapter 28E.

Section 15. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement and attachments attached hereto constitute the entire Agreement, among the Cooperators and supersedes or replaces any prior agreements among the Cooperators relating to its subject matter.

Section 16. No Waiver.

The waiver or acceptance by any Cooperator of a breach or violation of any provisions of this Agreement by another Cooperator shall not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any subsequent breach.

Section 17. No Assignment or Delegation.

Neither this Agreement, nor any right or obligation under it, may be assigned, transferred or delegated in whole or in part to any outside party without the prior written consent of all the Cooperators.

Section 18. Authority and Authorization.

Each party to this Agreement represents and warrants to the other that it has the right, power and authority to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement; and that it has taken all requisite actions necessary to approve the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement, and that this Agreement constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation upon itself in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Section 19. Headings and Captions.

The paragraph headings and captions set forth in this Agreement are for identification purposes only and do not limit or construe the contents of the paragraphs.

Section 20. Counterparts.

The Cooperators agree that this Agreement has been or may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

[Signature page follows]

STORY COUNTY

Dated this 5 day of July, 2011.

By: Wayne E. Clinton
Wayne Clinton, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Attest: Lucinda Martin
Lucinda Martin, County Auditor

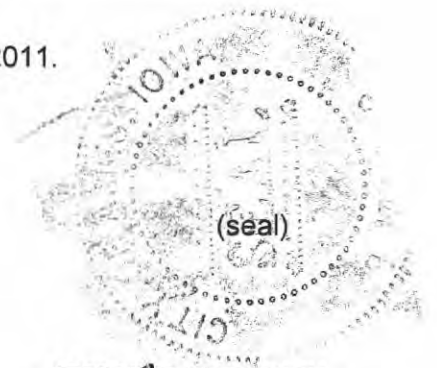


CITY OF AMES

Dated this 28th day of June, 2011.

By: Ann Campbell
Ann Campbell, Mayor

Attest: Jill Ripperger
Jill Ripperger, Deputy City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM
BY Douglas R. Marek
DOUGLAS R. MAREK
CITY ATTORNEY

CITY OF GILBERT

Dated this 11 day of July, 2011.

By: Jonathan C. Popp
Jonathan Popp, Mayor

Attest: Susan Gens
Susan Gens, City Clerk



ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A

Subdivision Review Procedures – Rural/Urban Transition Area Land Use Class

The Cities and County all have established subdivision review and approval and, for the Cities, have extended that review and approval outside its boundaries in accordance with Code of Iowa 354.9 and as amended. In establishing a process for subdivision review in the Rural/Urban Transitional Area Land Use Class, the three jurisdictions acknowledge the primacy of the Cities' interests in regulating development in areas that the Cities may, at some future moment, annex. Therefore, the Cities are tasked with giving primary review and, if appropriate, approval of any proposed division of land, except for Agricultural Subdivisions, which shall remain the sole province of the County.

As noted in Section 5.2.1 of this agreement, Cities agree to waive their subdivision review authority in areas designated Rural Service and Agricultural Conservation Area in the Plan. And as noted in Section 5.2.3 of this agreement, County agrees to waive its subdivision review authority in areas designated Urban Services Area in the Plan.

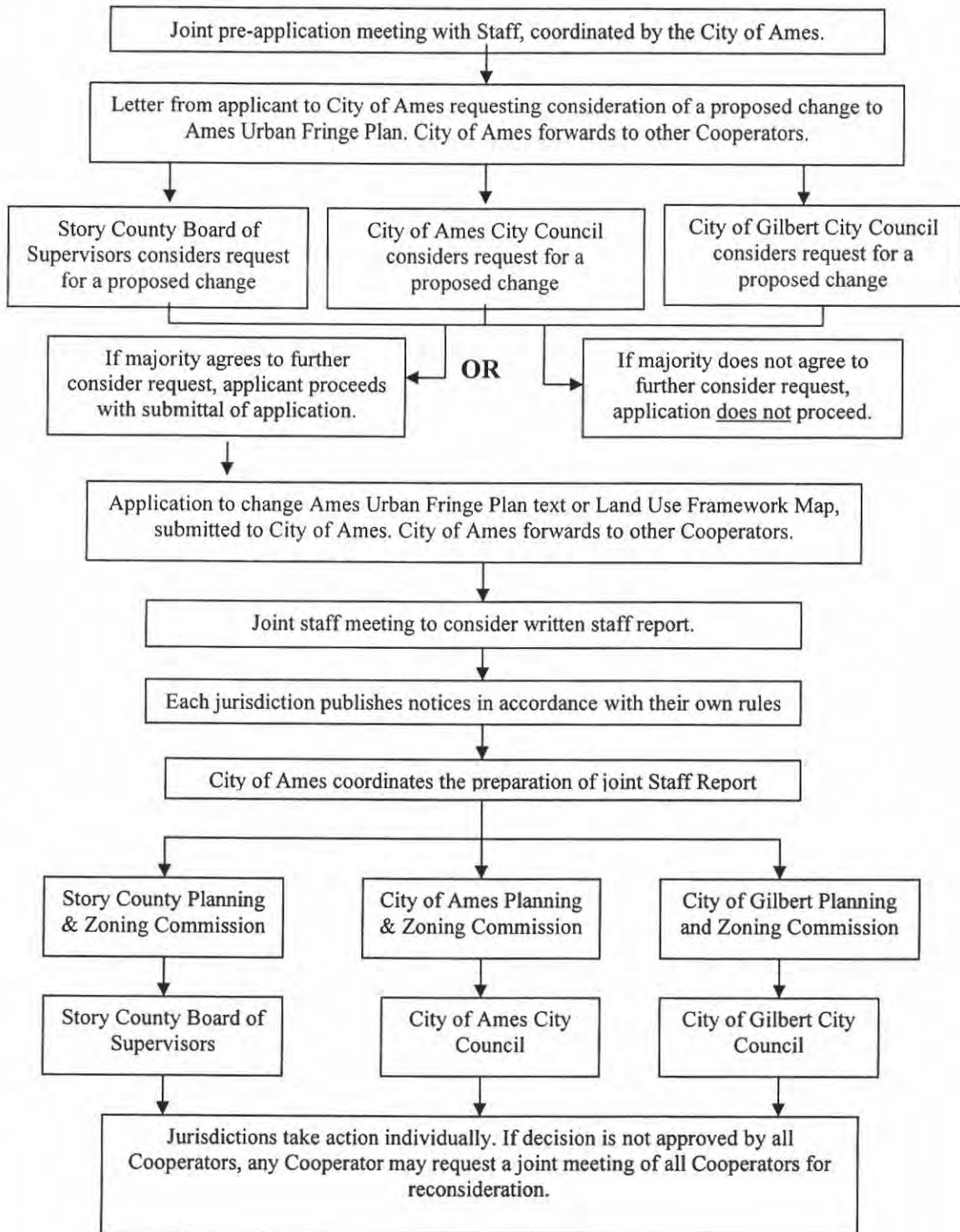
1. City Sketch Plan application form submitted to the closer City.
2. Sketch Plan review by City and County staff and determination as to whether the proposed division is a Major, Minor, or Agricultural Plat or whether the division can be allowed by Plat of Survey.
3. If a Major Subdivision Plat, follow City's Preliminary Plat process through to City Council decision. Plat is then forwarded to the County for action. Final Plat follows City's Major Final Plat process through to City Council decision. Plat is then forwarded to the County for action.
4. If a Minor Subdivision Plat, follow City's Minor Final Plat process through to City Council decision. Plat is then forwarded to the County for action.
5. If an Agricultural Plat, follow County's Agricultural Plat process through to Board of Supervisor's decision. No action by the City is required.
6. If a Plat of Survey, follow City's Plat of Survey process through to City Council decision. Plat is then forwarded to the County for action.

Attachment B

Reserved

Attachment C

Ames Urban Fringe Plan Amendment Procedures



LAND USE: FUTURE

Land Use Categories

The Future Land Use Map, with its designations of various land use categories, expresses the development vision for Ames and establishes the basis for land use policy, public and private decision making, and future development and infrastructure investments and initiatives. It incorporates the growth scenario analysis and priorities described earlier in this chapter, with land use designations that also reflect the character of the built-up city of 2020.

The land development categories used here differ in important ways from districts used in the city's earlier Land Use Policy Plan (1997) or single use categories used in conventional land use and zoning maps:

- » Development categories recognize historic periods and patterns of development and neighborhood character, as well as specific land uses.
- » Development categories employ a range of development densities and intensities, rather than one specific building type or density category. As such, they may contain a number of different zoning districts. Issues of compatibility of different land uses within development categories are addressed in the compatibility standards.
- » The Future Land Use Map was built on the street framework identified by Ames Complete Streets Plan. This plan identified to both the function and context of streets. Within a single development category, different use intensities may be appropriate along different types of streets.

Limited Development

Open Space. Areas of publicly or privately owned land intended to remain undeveloped and natural in character or in permanent open space uses. These areas include environmentally sensitive areas, environmental preserves, lands with conservation easements, and passive public space. They typically do not include high activity city parks.

Urban Reserve. Areas within the Ames Urban Service Area and the growth regions that should be reserved for future urban development, but are unlikely to be developed within this plan's 2040 horizon. These include all tiers of the five projected growth areas including the southeast and other parts of the Ames jurisdiction that can be feasibly provided by urban services. Policies related to Urban Reserve areas are discussed in the Fringe Policy section of this chapter.

Rural Character. Areas within the Ames jurisdiction where urban infrastructure such as water or sewer service is unlikely or not feasible. Development may include large-lot residential, low-impact agriculture, and non-residential uses appropriate to rural areas. Policies related to Rural Character areas are discussed in the Fringe Policy section of this chapter.

Residential Neighborhoods

RN-1 (Traditional). Neighborhoods initially developed in the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, with a variety of residential development forms and developed on a traditional urban street grid.

RN-2 (Established). Fully built-up neighborhoods, typically built in the second half of the 20th century to the present. Largely single-family, with some attached and duplex structures. Layout of neighborhoods often has larger blocks and curvilinear local street patterns.

RN-3 (Expansion). Neighborhoods principally developed as expansion of the City since 2000 at low and medium densities. This designation

includes current areas of building and subdivision activity or proposed for predominately residential development within the 2040 planning period. Includes growth areas identified on page 42. These areas include a variety of residential types and neighborhood services. The layout of neighborhoods generally followed suburban form principles with distinct areas for various uses.

RN-4 (Walkable Urban). Mixed use, mixed density neighborhoods with a high degree of connectedness and an orientation to pedestrian and bicycle scale. Typically includes a distinct, mixed use activity nucleus. May include comprehensively planned developments or urban districts that evolved organically.

RN-5 (Multifamily). Neighborhoods that are largely multifamily in character, and include large groupings of apartments, townhomes, and other attached housing forms. May include supporting commercial services. Multifamily development may be integrated on compatible sites into other RN areas and is not limited to RN-5 designations.

Commercial Centers

Neighborhood Core. Centers that serve local commercial and service needs for a neighborhood or cluster of neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Core - Mixed Use. A special subset of Neighborhood Core usually associated with walkable urban neighborhoods. May be somewhat larger in scale and include residential uses, with high connectivity to the commercial area.

Community Commercial/Retail. Generally single purpose centers that serve citywide and even regional commercial and service needs, originally designed for primary automobile access with large parking areas.

General Commercial. Areas with a wide variety of commercial, small business, automotive, trade services, and light industrial uses, some with outdoor storage.

LAND USE: CATEGORIES

Urban Reserve (UR: See Urban Fringe Map)

CHARACTERISTICS

- » Generally open or sparsely developed rural or open land.
- » Growth area Tiers 1 and 2 and other lands intended for near and mid-term development.
- » Includes growth areas in Tiers 2, 3, and 4 that are likely to be developed after this plan's 2040 planning horizon. See also Urban Fringe policies.
- » Government
- » Agriculture
- » Potential conservation or fringe overlays in areas where residential uses might be existing or permitted.

GOALS

- » Preserve long-term development options for efficient growth with full urban services.
- » Avoid impediments to future land annexation supporting urban and contiguous development.
- » Allow reasonable interim use of land consistent with agricultural and adjacent land uses.



DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

- » Require a minimum lot size large enough to prevent or discourage development of rural subdivisions and maintain a rural agricultural character.
- » Permit a variety of rural land uses and low-impact agriculture, excludes livestock and animal confinement operations and other high intensity uses.

PUBLIC ACTIONS

- » Coordinate park and open space planning with counties.
 - » Use Urban Fringe Plan Policies to guide specific use allowances and joint administration of extra-territorial area.
- Prioritize Policies for:
- » Specific underlying land use designations for interim use or for guiding incorporation of commercial use into the City.
 - » Large residential and agricultural minimum lot sizes.
 - » Limits on high intensity agricultural and extraction uses.
 - » Limits on special uses, such as religious facilities, wind generators, campgrounds, and other uses that may not meet urban design and infrastructure needs.
 - » Limit agribusiness facilities that do not meet urban design and infrastructure needs.

LAND USE: CATEGORIES

Rural Character (RC: See Urban Fringe Map)

CHARACTERISTICS

- » Existing large lot and acreage development, generally lacking urban infrastructure or services.
- » Areas within the subdivision jurisdiction of Ames but outside the urban reserve, where extensions of urban infrastructure are not expected.
- » Rural commercial, limited agriculture, or limited industrial/workshop uses that do not degrade rural residential character.
- » Potential conservation or fringe overlays in areas where residential uses might be existing or permitted.

GOALS

- » Provide locations to accommodate demand for low-density residential development that do not limit the City's logical long-term urban growth.
- » Promote sustainable development within or near the City where landforms and environment make urban development impossible.



DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

- » Develop land plans and building concepts that maintain rural or open character.
- » Design developments that protect landforms such as steep slopes and natural drainage patterns.
- » Encourage use of community wastewater systems for rural development, including green infrastructure, with relatively small rural lots.
- » Integrate regional transportation path systems into development designs.
- » Promote use of conservation subdivision techniques adjacent to natural areas.

PUBLIC ACTIONS

- » Use Urban Fringe Plan Policies to guide specific use allowances and joint administration of extra-territorial area.
- » Establish subdivision waiver standards appropriate to very low-density rural residential developments.
- » Consider cumulative impacts of similar development and planned development in the general area.

URBAN FRINGE: ANNEXATION AND FRINGE AREA

Growth at the Edge

The previous sections of this chapter focused on a Growth & Land Use Vision for the Ames urbanized area of 2040. The growth section established basic principles and identified the planned growth areas necessary to meet the emerging needs for the next twenty plus years, accommodating population growth of about 15,000 people. The land use section presented basic guiding principles and a future land use plan for 2040, based largely on character and function-based development categories, along with goals, policies, and actions for each category.

Much of the land area covered by the land use plan is built up and within the corporate limits, but realization of the growth plan will require significant annexations to expand the urbanized area of Ames. In addition to annexation policies, Ames maintains a two-mile extraterritorial subdivision jurisdiction and cooperative planning area, consisting largely of open space and agricultural uses, with some built up rural development areas, such as northeast of Ames. This “Urban Fringe” area was the subject of a cooperative planning effort completed in 2006 that involved the cities of Ames and Gilbert and Boone and Story Counties. This section is intended to address annexation of growth areas and provide an updated policy framework to the 2006 document.

Growth Areas and Annexation

In review, the Ames Plan 2040 process focused on four growth directions: north, south, east, and west/southwest. A northwest growth option, previously proposed by the City’s *Land Use Policy Plan* of 1997, was removed from consideration because of the extensiveness and cost of infrastructure improvements. In addition, a southeast growth area, south of Highway 30 and east of I-35, is not in the line of probable development during the planning period but holds long-term promise that could be unlocked by a new trunk line sanitary sewer and a south interchange, described elsewhere in Plan 2040.

The Future Land Use Map depicts the general layout of uses and infrastructure for the four primary growth areas and sets expectations for types and intensities of uses to meet the community needs and use resources efficiently. The precise delineation of uses will occur through the application of zoning districts that address more detailed information on specific uses and development patterns. The Future Land Use Map guides decision making for zoning and is in and of itself not considered to establish a right to a specific zone or use.

The projected growth areas were then divided into four development tiers, based on infrastructure availability. Tiers 1 and 2 incorporate areas served by incremental extensions of existing lines, while Tiers 3 and 4 build on that base to achieve full maturity. The criteria for annexation do not dictate a precise order for development, but instead outline factors that will affect the timing and desirability of annexation in the future.

The City’s capital improvement planning is based largely upon growth within these four growth areas and their development tiers. Extensions of water, sanitary sewer, parks, and roads are all needed for full build-out of each of these growth areas. This informs the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) programming, but it does not in and of itself commit the City to the extension or timing of specific infrastructure at the City’s cost. Indeed, much of the infrastructure and improvements identified within a growth area will be the obligation of a property owner or developer and in some instances in coordination with the City.

Each of the planned expansion areas includes a detailed discussion of needed infrastructure and desired outcomes. At the time of annexation the City will identify the relationship of the annexation to the scenario analysis and consider developer proposals for infrastructure extensions. The City will ensure that the extensions are logical and beneficial to overall goals for the area and not just for the convenience of one development project.

The City’s priority for development is incremental growth that builds upon prior improvements and improvements funded through developer-based construction. In some circumstances, the City may find an investment in “up-sizing” or completing critical connections is vital to the long-term success of the City and its expansion through partnering with developers or moving forward with pioneer infrastructure. This Plan does not specify timing or investment obligations by the City as it will be addressed through the City’s CIP. The City will include an infrastructure extension program in

URBAN FRINGE: ANNEXATION AND FRINGE AREA

the CIP to plan for coordinated improvements, but funding and timing will be an annual decision with the CIP budget approval.

Pioneer infrastructure and oversizing interests will be addressed by the City based upon general benefit to the City and its expansion into a defined area. Timing is a critical component to having the City participate in extensions of infrastructure. City participation may include the use of development agreements for offsetting projects, connection districts, street assessments, or financial incentives based upon City policy. If a desired project is not within the 5-yr CIP a developer would need to request changes in timing or begin the project as a developer project.

The City is not conferring a development right to property owners or obligation upon the City to make infrastructure available at any specific time or cost during the planning horizon of the Plan. This means that only upon rezoning and subdivision approval, when infrastructure adequacy and specific uses are evaluated, is there certainty in how to proceed with development.

Annexation of Lands Other than Growth Areas

In addition to the larger Growth Area Scenario analysis, there may be instances where individual properties abutting the City will also be appropriate to be annexed, to meet the needs of a growing City. These properties should be viewed in the light of their immediate serviceability or development potential compared to long-term prospects coordinated within the planned growth areas. Large areas of annexation, for example exceeding a quarter

section, will require a determination of timing consistency with planned infrastructure and the vitality of the planned and emerging growth areas, meaning the areas should not directly undermine planned growth areas viability for build-out in a predictable or sustainable economic manner. Annexation of other areas may be justified due to readily available infrastructure, a large master planned community approach with a development partner, or a lack of investment or development in targeted areas and need for additional land development options.

Fringe Area Policies

Ames has subdivision authority based upon state law for areas within two miles of its municipal limits, referred to as the Urban Fringe. Effective management of the Fringe is essential to planning future growth options and ensure that non-urban development practices do not negatively affect the City of Ames. In addition, preservation of natural areas and development practices compatible with agricultural needs is critical to the general well-being and welfare of the City of Ames and Story and Boone Counties.

Ames, Gilbert, and Story County have coordinated the management of the Fringe since 2011. The current agreement is based upon a 2006 Ames Urban Fringe Plan that identified policies for various issues that included agricultural preservation, natural areas, rural residential development, and the expansion of Ames and Gilbert through annexation. City policy is to continue to plan for the Fringe area, to work in this cooperative planning effort with Story County, and to look to expand the

joint planning and subdivision review authority coordination with Boone County as well.

The City's primary interests are planning for areas around the City as Urban Reserve based upon future opportunities for growth and urban services. Limited expansion of growth in the Fringe helps to meet other goals for managing natural resources and county infrastructure capacity as well. An agreement with the Counties helps to streamline policy and project review for the Fringe to help focus on City priorities in the Fringe and add design requirements that address future compatibility and service needs related to rural development.

URBAN FRINGE: POLICY FRAMEWORK

Guiding Principles for the Urban Fringe

The following policies can form the foundation for a new and more detailed Fringe Area Plan as Part of Plan 2040 and helps coordinate multi-jurisdictional land use and subdivision planning and administration in the Ames jurisdiction.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PLANNING

UF1-1: Designated Limited Area for Rural Development. Designate areas of existing rural development and limited areas for new rural development as they relate to future potential expansion for the City. A fundamental objective is for new development to occur within an urbanized area, limiting impacts to rural uses and providing urban infrastructure and services that support a compact and efficient development pattern for urban services.

UF1-2: Regional Partnerships. Work on regional partnerships for mutually beneficial planning of recreational uses, conservation areas, and watershed management.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS

UF2-1: Existing Development. An Existing Development designation applies to previously developed areas of varying density below three dwelling units per acre. These areas were primarily developed through rural subdivisions and lack urban infrastructure. They are subject to county zoning for limited levels of residential development. Only limited development of existing lots or minor subdivisions of existing lots with existing zoning are anticipated during the life of this Plan. Minimum lot sizes should reflect the rural character of the area and limited infrastructure capacity to support development intensification. Annexation of these areas is undesirable due to the low-density of development and minimal infrastructure improvements. These developments fall under the Rural Character category of the land use plan.

UF2-2: New Rural Residential. Rural Development Areas reflect county planning interests and are limited to areas that are well beyond the potential Urban Reserve areas and City limits. Designation of this land use should consider impacts to infrastructure, adjacent agricultural uses and natural areas; changes to storm water runoff and drainage basins; and cumulative effects of development near other cities on county and state highways. The low suitability of the site for agricultural uses due to a CSR score or a LESA score does not alone justify change of use to rural development. County zoning will vary for density and use, typically a rural subdivision would be limited to a minimum of 1 unit per net acre and a maximum density of 2.5 units per net acre and are to be developed as a subdivision plat. The City will review infrastructure needs for rural development and consider case by case waivers of urban infrastructure standards.

UF2-3: Rural Non-Residential Development. Certain areas adjacent to the City but in the county may include activities such as mining that are not desirable as an urban use or typically compatible with surrounding uses. In addition, limited areas of pre-existing commercial or light industrial uses occur within two miles of the City. The largest such areas are within Boone County. The Fringe Area recognizes these existing uses. However, further expansion of these non-residential uses is undesirable, especially within the growth areas where they can impact the future plans for City expansion. Further development in these existing areas will be limited by current infrastructure improvements. The City will review infrastructure needs for rural development and consider case by case waivers of urban infrastructure standards.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AREAS

UF3-1: Agricultural Preservation. Agricultural areas are designated to preserve appropriate land for farming and limit the encroachment of residential and other uses into these areas. Land divisions are permissible only to allow for splitting off an existing homesite or farmstead from a farm area. Minimum lot sizes are proposed at 35 acres matching Story County A-1 zoning standard.

UF3-2: Natural Area Conservation. Natural areas include sensitive areas of natural habitat, steep slopes, and waterways. Natural area designations are informational based upon the Environment Chapter and the 2006 AUPF. Creation of new parcels within these areas for new development is prohibited. Property divisions for land conservation purposes is permissible with City approval.

URBAN RESERVE AREAS

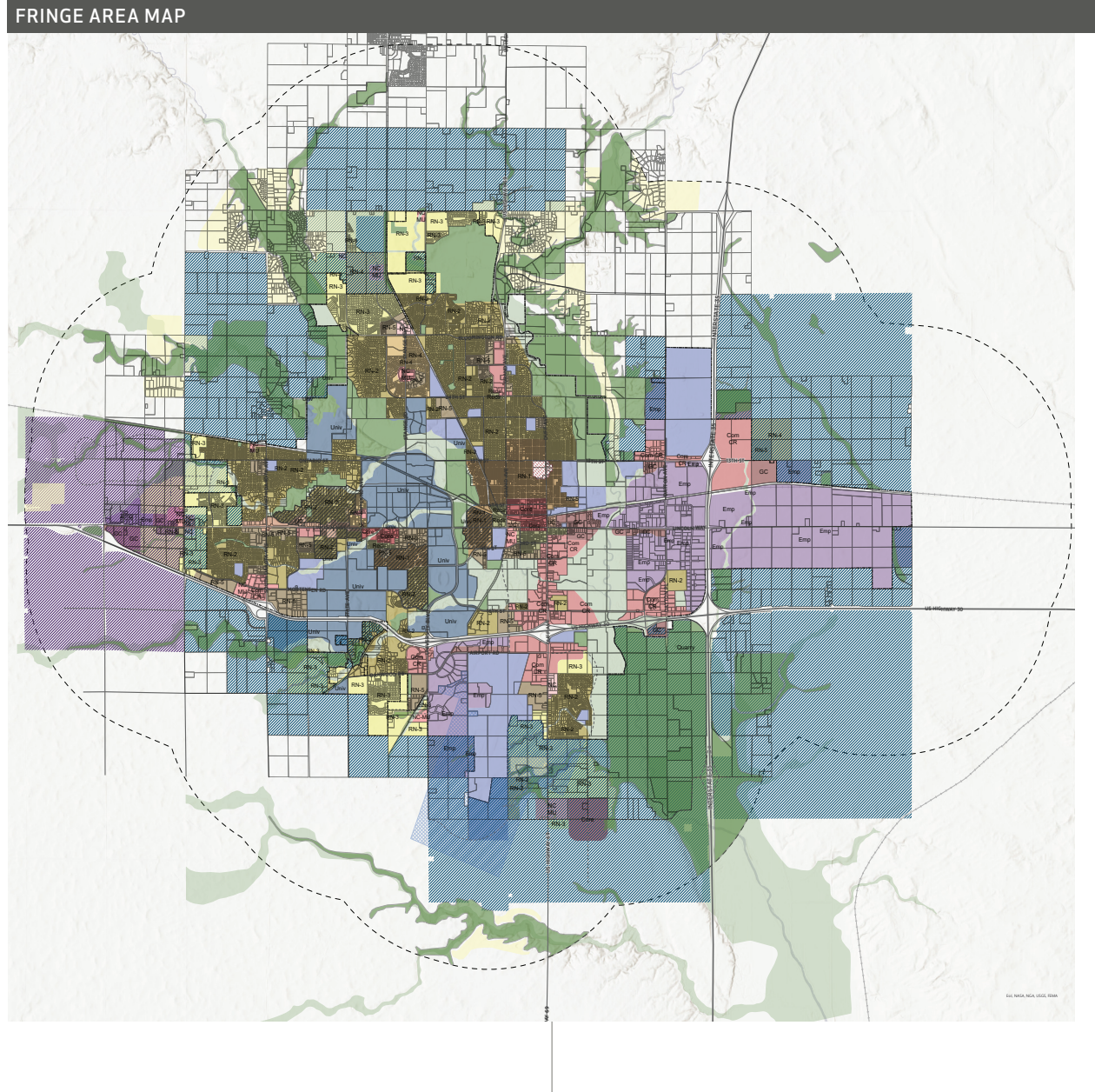
UF4-1: Urban Reserve District. Create an Urban Reserve area for the short- and long-term expansion of the City. These areas fall within the urban service area where municipal services, most notably sanitary sewer, can be feasibly extended. Only subdivisions that meet full urban development subdivision and improvement standards would be allowed.

UF4-2: Annexation. Urban Reserve Areas are appropriate for annexation to the City to meet future growth needs of the City. Areas are planned for residential, commercial, and industrial expansion based upon the scenario and Tiers analysis of this Plan. A precise determination of use will be determined upon annexation.

UF4-3: Lot Subdivision. Land divisions are permissible only to allow for splitting off an existing homesite or farmstead from a farm area. Divisions should not create parcels that can limit future annexation options. Land Divisions within the Urban Reserve Area shall meet a minimum lot size of 35 acres.

UF4-4: Infrastructure. All developments are subject to urban infrastructure standards unless a conditional waiver is granted by the City Council.

URBAN FRINGE: ANNEXATION AND FRINGE AREA





**STORY COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LISA K. HEDDENS
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January 11, 2022

Mayor John Haila and Members of the Ames City Council
City of Ames
515 Clark Avenue
Ames, IA 50010

Mayor John Popp and Members of the Gilbert City Council
City of Gilbert
105 SE 2nd Street
Gilbert, IA 50105

RE: Story County Priorities for the Ames Urban Fringe Plan Amendment

Dear Mayor Haila, Mayor Popp, and City Council Members,

With the recent adoption of the Ames Plan 2040, Story County is looking forward to beginning work on the Ames Urban Fringe Plan (AUFPP) renewal and amendment. As you may recall, Story County sent a letter outlining our priorities for the amendment process last year. While many of these priorities are unchanged, we wanted to reiterate and clarify them. They have been informed by the completed Ames Plan 2040. Story County also recently completed a housing study for the unincorporated area and cities in the county (with the exception of Ames). The goals and findings of the housing study were incorporated with our priorities.

Story County supports the following priorities:

1. Focus housing growth within existing municipal boundaries or in newly annexed areas where development of a variety of housing types is possible.

2. Align the AUFPP Urban Service Area designation (or a similar designation where annexation is required prior to development) with the priority growth areas in the 2040 Plan.
3. Map the 2040 Plan Urban Reserve, including the Story County Study Area, as Agriculture and Farm Service to preserve the area.
4. Consider the elimination of the Rural Urban Transition Area land use class where the city and county have joint review authority. Development in Ames' Urban Service Area should be required to be annexed and meet full city standards.
5. Reassess existing residential developments that the city does not foresee annexing and the amount of undeveloped rural residential-designated area. This includes siting or allowing intensification of rural residential areas based on Minimum Levels of Service (MLS) requirements to ensure that adequate public facilities and services are available, or can be provided, including access to paved roads, fire service, rural water, common wastewater treatment, and broadband. Also, encourage clustering of development and conservation design standards to protect prime agricultural land and natural areas.
6. Establish density maximums for rural residential development and development in Agriculture and Farm Service-designated areas.
7. Locate new commercial and industrial uses within existing municipal boundaries or in newly annexed areas except for those activities strongly interrelated with agricultural uses. Consider if policies to limit the intensity of current rural commercial and industrial uses are needed.
8. Continue to limit the intensity of certain agribusiness uses including the processing of agricultural products into value-added agricultural products.
9. Consider the traffic impacts of areas designated for rural residential or rural commercial growth/intensification. These areas should match the capacity of the existing transportation system and consider Ames' Forward 2045 Plan scenarios.
10. Consider a policy that places the full cost of traffic improvements on an applicant when they are required due to a proposed development.
11. Consider a policy establishing buffers when rural residential or rural commercial development is adjacent to agricultural uses, including the Iowa State Research Farms.
12. Discourage development in the floodplain and natural areas.
13. Ensure that natural area mapping is updated to reflect new resource inventories and floodplain maps. Consider creating an overlay for natural areas to address confusion about the land use class the designation falls in. Consider new policies that apply protections for natural areas in all land use designations.
14. Continue policies to mitigate and manage stormwater run-off, soil erosion, and wastewater discharge and continue to work with cooperators on water quality projects.
15. Incorporate park planning goals from the 2040 Plan, including planning for larger community parks in growth areas. Map greenways in the AUFPP and consider developing a policy regarding their preservation or dedication when development is proposed.

16. Coordinate trails identified through the C2C Plan, Ames Plan 2040, and other city and county plans with development proposals. Map trails as part of the AUFPP amendment process.
17. Assess the compatibility of certain conditional uses with the various AUFPP land use designations.
18. Invite the City of Kelley and Boone County to participate in the AUFPP amendment process.
19. Map designations so they encompass whole parcels of land.

Lastly, we support county Planning and Development Department staff working with your City staff to begin discussions about the future timeline and scope of the AUFPP amendment process.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,



Latifah Faisal, Chair
Story County Board of Supervisors