

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Development Review Commission  
**FROM:** Ambika Adhikari, Principal Planner; and Jacob Payne, Planner II  
**DATE:** May 23, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** A summary of draft document: Tempe Tomorrow – General Plan 2050

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## **PURPOSE:**

This memo provides an update on the preparation of Tempe Tomorrow – General Plan 2050, and an overview of the draft document.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) 9-461.06 requires that a municipality’s plan be readopted or a new or updated General Plan be adopted and voter-approved every ten years. The General Plan 2040 was adopted by the City Council in December 2013 and was ratified by the voters in May 2014. Accordingly, the General Plan 2050 will need to be adopted by the City Council before December 2023 and put to the voters before May 2024.

The draft GP 2050 provides the vision, goals, strategies, land use and residential density guidance towards managing growth while enhancing Tempe’s livability, sustainability, and resilience. Themes woven into the GP 2050 include developing Tempe as a leader in urban living; expanding pockets of urban activity centers or innovation hubs; and enhancing pedestrian, bike, and transit connections to produce a “20-minute City”, and make Tempe a leader in cultural, sustainability, and climate-friendly policies.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

With the adoption of the Public Involvement Plan for Tempe Tomorrow – General Plan 2050 in March 2022, City staff initiated the public process for an update to the General Plan 2050.

Preparation of the draft general plan has incorporated the feedback from an extensive public input program including four rounds of public input including a dedicated project page and email address, meeting, and survey invitations to 42,000 households, utility bill newsletter announcements, extensive social media and e-news promotion, in-person and online meetings, interactive and hands-on feedback tabling at multiple community events and focus group meetings with a variety of stakeholders.

Five community-wide meetings were held, and outreach was conducted at several locations to seek input and gather ideas for the general plan, (including Tempe High School, Corona del Sol High School, Tempe Accelerated High School, LEGOLAND Discovery Center, Neighborhood Celebration Awards, Tour de Tempe, Tempe History Museum, Arts in the Parks, FanCon, Unity Walk, Movies in the Park, G.A.I.N. events and more.) More than 2,500 individuals have participated in the outreach activities, meetings, and surveys that included four online public surveys to solicit public input. The input and comments were then considered in the development of the draft General Plan 2050.

To advise staff during development of the general plan, the Mayor and Council appointed a 25-person Community Working Group (CWG) (which later stabilized with 17 members) to meet monthly from July 2022 through December 2023. Two extra CWG meetings, beyond the regular monthly meetings, were held to cover all the topics. Tempe also created a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to help in crafting the concepts and details of the draft plan. The TAG consists of almost 70 members representing Tempe’s boards and commissions, partner organizations, and interdepartmental subject matter experts. The TAG has met twice each month since July 2022.

The public involvement process is organized to ensure that public concerns are continuously understood and considered in the plan. While traditional methods (meetings, presentations, and hearings etc.) play an important role in public engagement, online tools and social media are used extensively to disseminate information, broaden outreach, and solicit input. Community members will continue to be provided opportunities to comment on the draft General Plan until it is adopted.

**GP 2050 CONTENT**

The draft General Plan includes the following chapters and elements. The elements marked with an asterisk are required by the Arizona Statute.

**LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER ELEMENTS**

- Land Use\*
- Community Design\*
- Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization\*
- Redevelopment\*
- Housing\*

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER ELEMENTS**

- Growth Area\*
- Cost of Development\*

**CIRCULATION CHAPTER ELEMENTS**

- Pedestrian and Bikeways\*
- Transit\*
- Travelways Streets\*
- Parking and Access Management\*

**ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION CHAPTER ELEMENTS**

- Conservation\*

- Environmental Planning\*
- Water Resources\*

**OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AMENITIES CHAPTER ELEMENTS**

- Open Space\*
- Recreation\*

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES CHAPTER ELEMENTS**

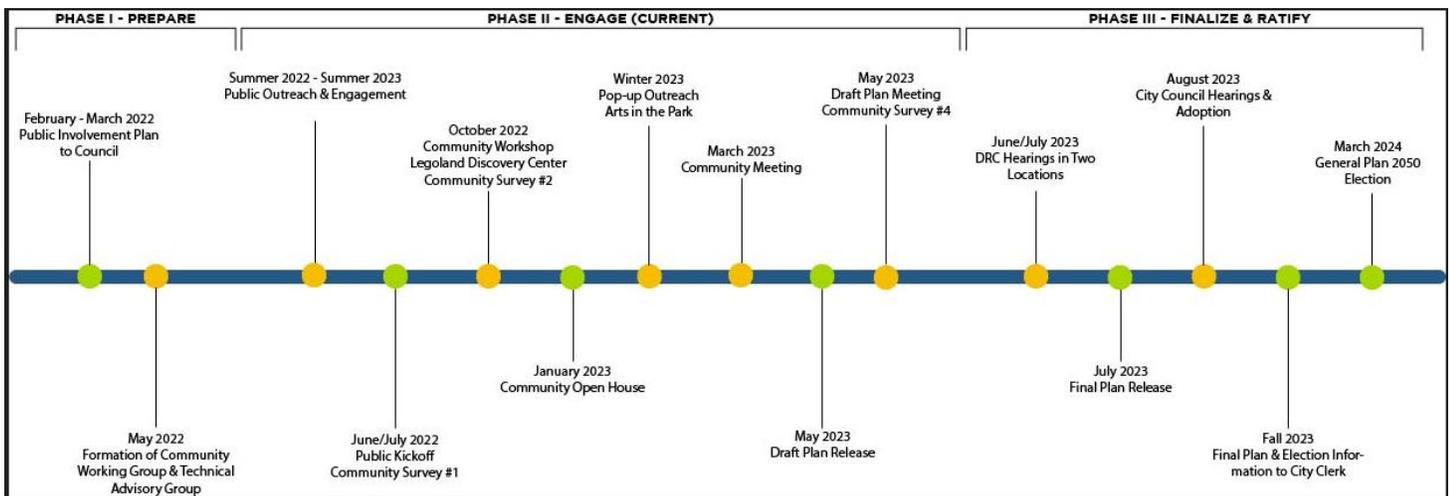
- Public Buildings and Facilities\*
- Public Services\*
- Safety\*

Additional Elements in Tempe’s GP 2050

- Historic Preservation
- Economic Development
- Aviation
- Public Art and Cultural Amenities
- Climate Change and Extreme Heat
- Municipal Court

**TEMPE TOMORROW - GP 2050 DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION SCHEDULE**

The following graphics and chart show the two-year long schedule for the development and adoption of GP 2050.



The table below shows the next steps in the adoption process.

Calendar for May 2023 – March 2024	Dates
Draft General Plan 2050 Released to the Public	May 5, 2023
Review of the General Plan 2050 Draft at a Public Meeting	May 17, 2023
DRC GP 2050 Study Session	May 23, 2023
Community Working Group/Technical Advisory Group/Community Review of the Draft	May/June 2023

Revised Draft General Plan to the DRC	June 2023
DRC Hearing South side of city	June 27, 2023
DRC Hearing North side of city	July 25, 2023
Final General Plan 2050 - Revised (as needed)	August 3, 2023
Council 1st Hearing	August 10, 2023
Council 2nd Hearing	August 24, 2023
Public Vote to Ratify	March 12, 2024

**MORE INFORMATION**

This exciting community-driven process is a great opportunity to help shape the future of Tempe. Questions or comments on Tempe Tomorrow – General Plan 2050 can be directed to [2050@tempe.gov](mailto:2050@tempe.gov).

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Additional information is available at the [GP 2050 website](#).

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