

Chapter 12

Plan Interrelationships

Introduction

The Municipalities Planning Code specifies that comprehensive plans include a discussion of the interrelationships among the various plan components. This requirement is intended to ensure that plan components are integrated and for the most part, not in conflict with the primary goals and objectives. Furthermore, this section requires the Plan to consider the impacts each component has upon the others so the potential consequences of future decisions are known. During the production of this Plan, the Steering Committee formulated and approved general goals, gathering information from prior planning documents, public input, and County staff recommendations. More detailed objectives were derived from these goals and serve as the framework for the entire plan.

Chapter 5, "Goals and Objectives," provides the complete text of each of the goal statements and supporting objectives. While each objective has been established in pursuit of one particular goal, the effect of implementing any particular objective cannot be limited to that goal alone. In fact, many of the goals in this plan have similar objectives. The purpose of this chapter is to show how the various objectives are expected to affect the *other* goals. This will help us to identify what actions are naturally complementary, enabling us to promote multiple goals with a single action, and which are in conflict with each other, requiring special attention to be sure that resources are not wasted by executing actions whose effects cancel each other.

Given the extent of goal and objective statements, a written analysis of these interrelationships would be lengthy and tedious. Instead, a graphic representation is more efficient. Figure 12.1 presents a matrix with each of the goals across the top (the "x" axis) and the objectives listed down the side. In each case, the statements are grouped according to general area of interest. The goal and objective statements shown here have been edited to fit into the space provided.

The matrix can be read in two ways. Read vertically, the matrix shows the effect upon a given goal by each of the objectives. Read horizontally, the matrix indicates how a given objective affects each goal.

- A *strong, positive* relationship indicates that an objective will significantly promote achievement of the indicated goal. The chart shows this kind of relationship between each objective and the goal it is specifically intended to implement, but note that a number of the objectives strongly support other goals as well.
- A *weak, positive* relationship indicates that an objective supports the indicated goal, but that it is a peripheral effect and that it is not the primary intent of the objective.
- A *neutral* relationship indicates that the implementation of an objective will have no effect upon the indicated goal. One could argue that there will invariably be *some* effect, if only because resources expended in pursuit of one objective will not be available for other actions. While this is undeniably true, it is not a particularly useful argument for our purposes here as it would be true of every relationship.
- A *weak, negative* relationship indicates that the objective is likely to impede or delay the success of achieving the indicated goal, or that side effects of this objective should be addressed in the implementation process to mitigate the negative effects.
- A *strong, negative* relationship indicates that the objective runs directly counter to the indicated goal and that implementation should be executed with great care in order to avoid wasted effort.

Analysis

In general, the objectives are mutually supportive with few conflicts. Having very few conflicts identified bodes well for the success of the implementation process. The one identified strong conflict is between the potential construction of the Inner Loop road with water quality and wellhead protection in the Dykeman Springs Area. Both issues are important to the region, and careful mitigation will be necessary to achieve both objectives.

In conclusion, there are few areas of this Comprehensive Plan that conflict with each other, that each of these conflicts is minor, and that they may be surmounted with careful planning. The municipalities can mitigate some of the potential conflicts by utilizing the recommendations and planning techniques described in this Plan. This analysis has not caused any alterations of the basic policies, goals, or objectives of this Comprehensive Plan.