

Planning Commission Kick-Off

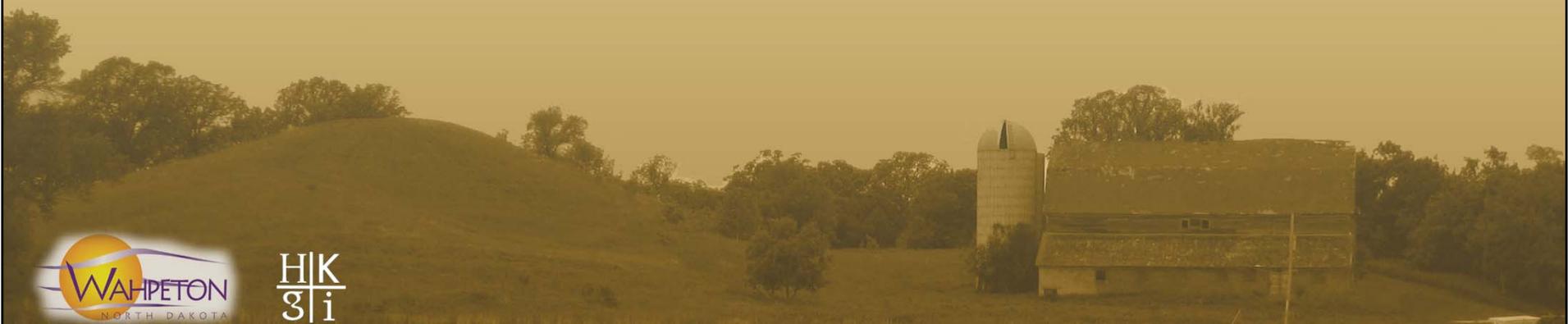
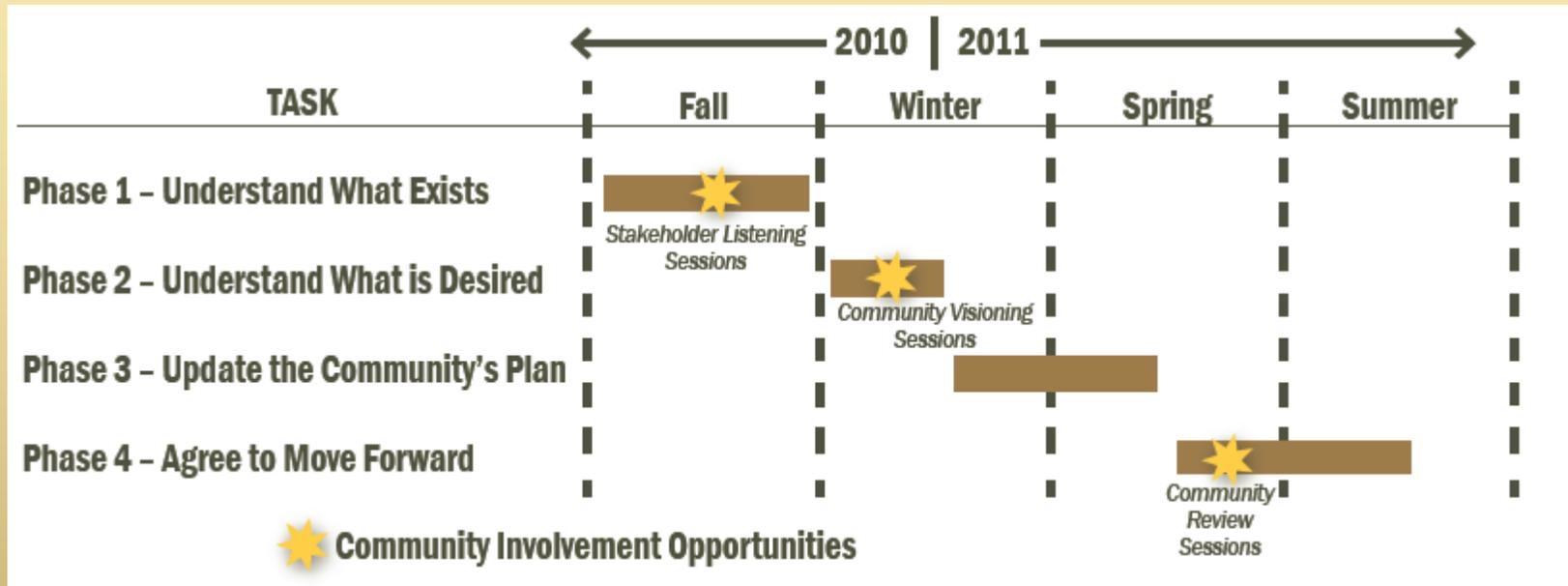
November 18, 2010



Agenda

- Overview of Planning Process
- Community Outreach Strategy
- Phase 1 – Understand What Exists
- Discussion about Issues & Opportunities
- Stakeholder Listening Sessions
- Current Trends & Impacts on Communities
- Next Steps

Planning Process Overview



Community Outreach Strategy

- City's website
- City's Facebook page
- Press releases/newspaper articles
- Utility Bill inserts (verify)
- Cable channel
- Comment Cards



Phase 1 – Understand What Exist

- **Maps**
 - Existing Land Use
 - Zoning Districts
 - Transportation System
 - Public Facilities
 - Infrastructure System



Issues & Opportunities

- Answer individually the following questions on post-it note
- Place post-it note on wall in appropriate category or create your own category
- Group post-it into topic areas and summarize on one sheet of paper

Discussion Questions

- What are Wahpeton's most valuable assets/strengths?
- What are Wahpeton's most significant issues or challenges for the future?
- What is the City's role in improving Wahpeton's future?



Stakeholder Listening Sessions

- Met with 16 groups and 70 individuals over the last two days
- Meetings intended to help inform process on current conditions and future concerns
- Summary of key points from each meeting



Quality of Life

- The people are most important asset
- Recreational amenities
- Nightlife (lack of)
- Safe & clean
- Short travel distances
- Great place to raise a family
- Availability of medical services
- Importance of College of Science
- Centrally located (Fargo, lakes, outdoors)
- Wahpeton as the hub for Richland County



Employment

- More, More, More
- Professional level
- Job options for spouses
- NDSCS importance
- Generally 1/3 reside in Wahpeton, 1/3 from ND, and 1/3 from MN
- Evolving technologies
- Competition with Fargo for wages

Housing

- **Need broader variety**
 - Senior
 - Rental
 - Attached
 - Move-up?
- **Aging housing – needs for reinvestment**
- **Potential for downtown housing**

Downtown

- Appearance of storefronts
- Housing potential
- Lease rates
- Historic buildings
- Appropriateness of mix of uses
- Importance of keeping J.C. Penney's
- Vacant Town Centre Square
- Old City Hall renovation

Education

- **NDSCS is a critical asset in multiple ways**
- **Declining enrollment at public schools**
- **School choice with public and private**
- **Library is both an educational and cultural asset**
- **Links between various school facilities**

Shopping/Entertainment

- More retail stores
- Need things to do, especially downtown
- Arts, cultural, and entertainment activities desired
- NDSCS is a provider of arts, cultural & recreation
- Walmart offers residents access to basic retail merchandise
- Entertainment activities needed for teens, college students, and younger adults



Infrastructure

- Aging streets & sidewalks
- Airport advantage
- Levee and trail benefits
- Limitations for economic development – water & gas

Current and Future Trends

- Demographics
- Energy Demands
- Healthcare
- Food Needs
- Jobs & Training
- Lifestyles
- Housing
- Aging Infrastructure
- Recreation & Tourism
- Education
- Environment

Next Steps

- Complete draft community context report
- PC Workshop – Thursday, December 16th
- Prepare for community visioning sessions

