



COMMUNITY VISION AND
ACTION PLAN
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

5. Implementation

Introduction

In order to address the vision statements, goals, and strategies outlined in the preceding chapters, a clear framework for implementation is necessary. This chapter suggests specific implementation-related steps that will facilitate the realization of Imagine Columbia's Future. In conducting the Imagine Columbia's Future process, the community committed to the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, and openness. The process methodology involved building the vision on a broad foundation of ideas by distilling those ideas into vision statements, goals, strategies and action plans. The process ensured that the participating public made decisions in the public arena. A review of the action plans prepared by the Citizen Topic Groups shows a great range of steps, organizations, and tools identified for the purpose of implementation. Successfully implementing Columbia's vision will depend on several factors, beginning with the ongoing will and commitment of leaders and the citizens of Columbia to achieve the goals and strategies contained in this document. However, that commitment is not enough. The success of Imagine Columbia's Future will also require the support of governmental institutions, business, civic and educational institutions, individual citizens, and community-based organizations more than ever before.

The City of Columbia currently has a large commission structure and many of the strategies in the vision can be directly addressed by current standing commissions. These commissions should be considered in determining how to implement the vision.

Implementation Steps

The implementation of Imagine Columbia's Future will require three distinctive steps.

1. Present the vision to the Sponsors' Council for ratification and then to the City Council.
2. Preparation of Initial Inventory.
3. Create a vision management and oversight entity.

The co-chairs of the Vision Committee should formally present the results of Imagine Columbia's Future to City Council. The Council could take formal action by accepting the results of the vision. This is a critical step to confer legitimacy to the vision. Prior to presenting the results to City Council a similar presentation should be given to the Sponsors' Council as the entity that formally empowered the Vision Committee. Presentations should also be offered to the other Sponsors' Council governing bodies: Boone County Commission, University of Missouri-Columbia, Stephens College, Columbia College, Columbia Public School Board of Education, and others as requested.

The Visioning Committee determined that further work needed to be done on implementation and decided to set forth a detailed recommendation on implementation in their letter forwarding the vision to the Sponsors' Council and City Council. The Visioning Committee views this letter as an integral part of the plan to be reviewed by the Sponsors' Council and City Council with the plan.