

Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department

Rochester City and Olmsted County Planning Departments consolidated in 1975. The Department is managed by a joint committee, Consolidation provides a unique opportunity to plan for and manage, regional growth and transportation systems while preserving prime agricultural lands in the County and minimizing adverse impacts of sprawl.

The Department is made up of five divisions:

- Administration
- Analysis and Planning
- Development Review Services
- Geographic Information Systems
- Housing

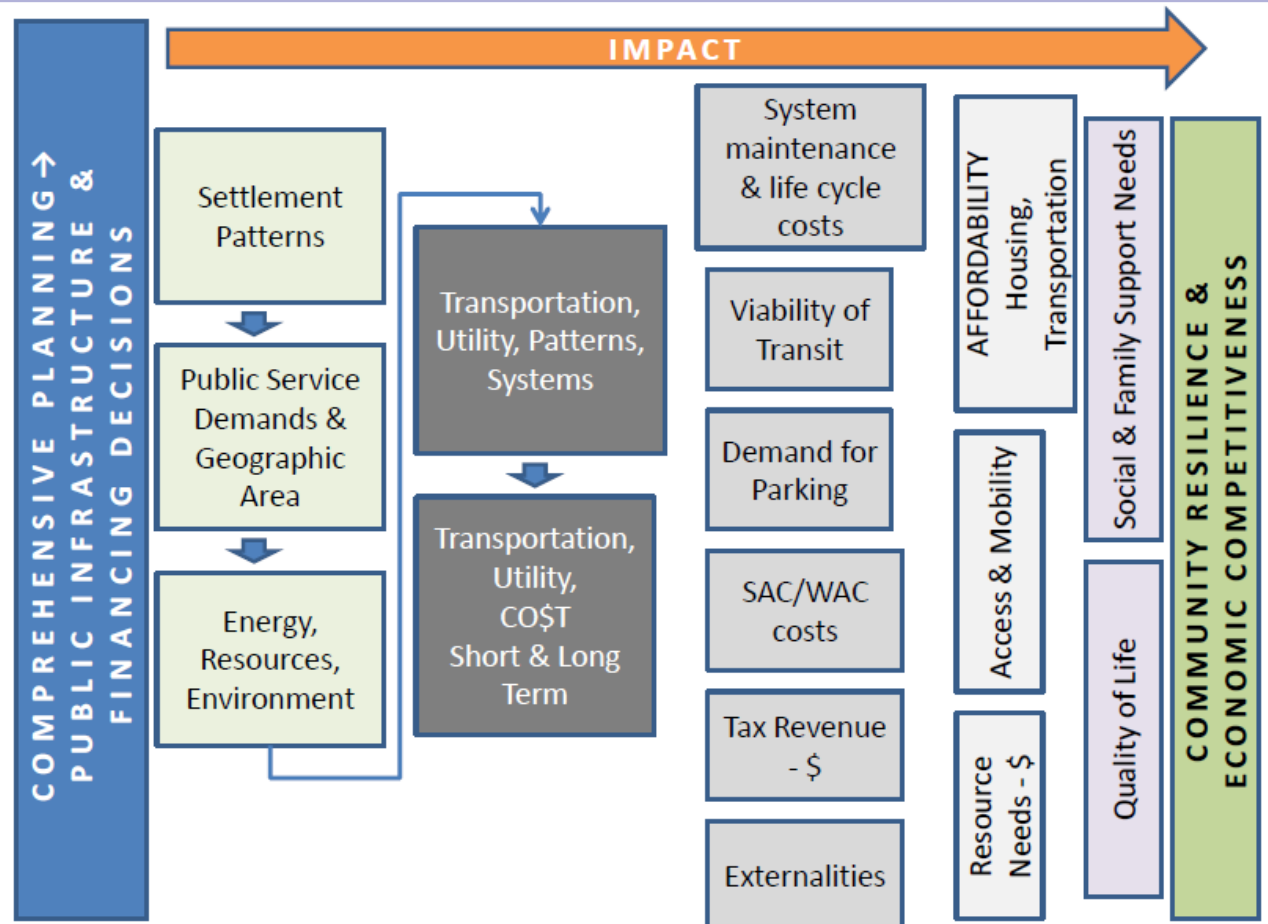
We are also the staff for the: Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments (ROCOG). This is the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization, which is the Federally recognized Planning agency for regional transportation planning, and which is required for federal and state transportation funding of local projects; and Housing and Redevelopment Authority

We serve as staff and/or advisors to 17 elected and appointed boards or commissions.

Currently, we are a staff of 35 and have an annual operating budget of approximately 4 million dollars.

P2S—Planning to Succeed : “...to best position the City for long term resilience; to support changing demographics, housing options, multi-modal transportation, growth in jobs and visitors, and more, while working with finite resources—human, financial, and natural/environmental”.

- Evaluating options for public facilities, transit, land use and development patterns and identifying those that best align with guiding principles and long term objectives—including priorities identified in the Downtown Master Plan and the pending future Destination Medical Center Development Plan.
- Recognizing and addressing the close relationships among transportation by all modes, land uses, development patterns, and densities. Effectively articulating this information to the community and to decision makers and building community consensus will be essential.



Rochester Comprehensive Plan Update

Potential Plan Elements — Request for Qualifications

Rochester, MN

Potential Core Elements & Issue Areas:

- Integrated land use and transportation policies and programs, including the evaluation of options/scenarios that will inform discussions about long term impacts to the City's resilience and help achieve the community's long term objectives
- Development of strategies for accommodating growth affordably and using existing infrastructure efficiently; in particular, such strategies should include transit oriented development
- Alignment of policies and infrastructure planning to meet desired priority outcomes, and to help meet Downtown Master Plan and mobility goals
- Development of an updated Land Use Plan – including a future land use map and location criteria
- Livability and healthy living policies
- Housing affordability and access policies
- Energy efficient development options
- Environmentally sustainable development policies and strategies (addressing water supply and quality, open space, wetlands and other habitat areas, and so on)
- Alignment of parks and open space planning concepts with the authorities of the local Park Board

Other Potential Elements & Issue Areas

- Long term housing market study
- Downtown neighborhoods and fringe area redevelopment potential beyond the Rochester Downtown Master Plan study area
- Reimagining Broadway Avenue as a major multi-modal corridor
- Conducting special area studies such as Downtown Gateway corridors
- Identify blocks with concentrations of distressed housing and buildings
- Develop detailed plans for distressed blocks
- Coordinating the update of public facilities plan and policies; e.g., Storm Water Management, Wastewater Treatment, Sanitary Sewer Service Areas, etc.
- Urban and visual design
- Other plans (Energy Action Plan & Historic Preservation Study and policy)

Rochester-Olmsted Planning Dept.

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Specific Transit-related Long Range Transportation Plan Elements Under Consideration

- **Prepare a Long Range Urban Transit Master Plan**
- Transit systems planning
- Evaluate feasibility of various downtown circulator options (e.g., shuttle services, trolley or streetcar, personal rapid transit)
- Evaluate feasibility of options such as light rail and/or bus rapid transit feasibility in major transit demand corridors
- Complete sufficient transit corridor evaluation including prioritization of corridors to position the region to engage FTA in discussions regarding formal project development for the highest priority corridors
- Evaluating the need and/or extent to which fixed route bus system needs to transition from Hub & Spoke system to a grid network of routes to interface with higher capacity transit systems

Prepare a Transit Development Plan

- Short-term five to seven year capital and operating plan for regular route bus system