

## COMMUNITY NETWORKING GROUP - February 26, 2015

### City Comprehensive Plan Update

Presentation by Jeff Ellerbush, Consolidated Planning Department

#### Summary of Key Points:

- o Rochester's projected 20 year population growth of about 24,000 residents is equivalent to growing a city the size of Austin.
- o The Comprehensive Plan that is being written replaced the plan that was developed in 1977 (and periodically updated.) Dramatic changes are not expected, but it will guide growth and decisions for public and private investment for the next 20 years.
- o Big focus of the City's comprehensive plan: land use/zoning, transportation/transit
- o The City's plan will reflect demographic changes, such as: Increase in those over 65: Increase in minorities: smaller households that prefer urban, car-free living: more jobs than residents = thousands of commuters: more low-income families/children
- o The City's plan is limited to the boundaries of the City limits. The County's land use plan outlined planned urban and suburban development for Rochester and the other 6 cities.
- o The decision has been made that the downtown will keep its current road grid, but will need to move more commuters in and out.
  - Rochester is a regional community with more jobs than residents. There are 33,000 daily commuters, 56% of whom live outside of Rochester.
  - Our current policies have supported its own social engineering: a suburban lifestyle, with one person car commutes
  - Transportation services are always a key concern of service agencies. The City does transit planning every 5 years. There are always trade-off's: How big? What/where's the need? What should be expanded? What are the routes? Is the social sector at the table?
- o **Specific Recommendations:**
  - [Use the population and job growth projections](#) prepared by the State Demographer for planning and grant writing. This information always available on the Planning Department's website and available for community use.
  - Consider developing a "Social Sector Chamber of Commerce" because the social sector of the community is under-represented in community discussions and policy making.

- o The health, social, and poverty impacts of planning are not fully considered in many decisions.