The Process

The process of preparing the first comprehensive plan began in September 2009. Prior to initiation of the process, a Comprehensive Plan Board consisting of citizens, City department heads, business owners and stakeholders was appointed by the City Common Council to provide direction for development of the plan and to make recommendations regarding its adoption.

1. Stage One – Community Assessment and Visioning: In this stage key issues and trends related to Albany’s population, economy and environment were identified through data collection and analysis, review of existing plans and studies, and interviews with a broad range of community stakeholders. (These issues and trends are documented in the Comprehensive Plan Data Book and the Sustainability Scan.)

Stage One also involved extensive community outreach to engage thousands of citizens in articulating a vision for Albany’s future. This outreach included two series of community forums (three meetings each in different parts of the City); an interactive Albany 2030 website; house parties (at which residents gathered with their friends and neighbors to generate ideas about Albany’s future); “stoop” surveys (engaging residents in their own neighborhoods to discuss issues and complete written surveys), and other means of soliciting input. The results provided the basis for preparing an overarching Vision Statement for Albany and an initial set of policy directions to set the plan framework.

2. Stage Two – The Comprehensive Plan: The full Albany 2030 Plan established the specific steps to be taken to “change course” by influencing current conditions and trends to achieve the future, as envisioned by Albany citizens. Stage Two began with a third community forum series, during which citizens reviewed the Vision Statement and policy directions developed in Stage One and identified community priorities for action. The team translated this community input into:

- Strategies and Actions for each of (8) Plan “Systems”
- Projects synthesized from the system strategies and actions into a short, intermediate, and long-term goals for implementation action
- A Plan Monitoring process to measure progress over time.

Thank you, to all of the many people who provided necessary input and participated in developing the Comprehensive Plan. Your creation and review of this document has not gone unnoticed. Thanks to you, Albany is YOUR CITY, YOUR FUTURE.

Albany 2030 was adopted by the City Common Council on April 2, 2012. You can read the final plan and see how this document is providing direction for citywide initiatives at www.Albany2030.org. Your job isn’t finished… stay tuned in, attend neighborhood meetings, public hearings and engage in public activities to learn about upcoming projects and how they relate to Albany 2030.
**EIGHT ALBANY 2030 PLAN SYSTEMS**

The Vision Statement designed by the community was expanded into (8) thematic systems. These systems all work together to produce our daily experiences in the City. The community has identified goals (abridged here) within each of these systems as well as 148 strategies and +/- 500 actions to help achieve these goals. Read all the strategies and actions online at [www.Albany2030.org](http://www.Albany2030.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Form</th>
<th>Economy</th>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>Housing &amp; Neighborhoods</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Promote development of a balanced land use pattern</td>
<td>- Increase employment opportunities at all education/skill levels, &amp; raise local incomes.</td>
<td>- Preserve &amp; protect the City’s waterways</td>
<td>- Provide a range of quality, affordability, density, ownership opportunity, &amp; price range</td>
<td>- Foster relationships &amp; create new partnerships among institutions to focus on cooperative planning for growth &amp; development</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Promote walkable streets, compact, mixed use development, public spaces, &amp; context sensitivity to historic design &amp; development</td>
<td>- Encourage investment &amp; reinvestment throughout Albany that supports economic development &amp; placemaking</td>
<td>- Preserve &amp; protect the urban forest</td>
<td>- Maintain supply of quality affordable housing &amp; encourage mixed-income neighborhoods.</td>
<td>- Work together to ensure that government &amp; institutional facilities &amp; projects promote mutual benefits</td>
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<td>- Capitalize on architectural &amp; neighborhood-specific character</td>
<td>- Create economic resilience through diversity</td>
<td>- Protect, Enhance, restore &amp; expand the natural habitat</td>
<td>- Maintain distinct, safe, quality neighborhoods that enhance natural beauty, architectural character, &amp; cultural diversity</td>
<td>- Address the potential impacts of expansion on the tax base</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Preserve &amp; restore underutilized buildings while allowing for new development &amp; architecture</td>
<td>- Improve</td>
<td>- Protect steep slopes &amp; soils</td>
<td>- Provide access to basic neighborhood services</td>
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<th>Social</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Utilities &amp; Infrastructure</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Elevate the quality of Albany’s educational system to a high standard based on targets</td>
<td>- Increase options to move people w/in Albany, &amp; beyond</td>
<td>- Promote energy conservation, efficiency, &amp; renewable tech.</td>
<td>- Foster relationships &amp; create new partnerships among institutions to focus on cooperative planning for growth &amp; development</td>
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<td>- Improve community health through access to recreation, fresh food &amp; healthcare</td>
<td>- Provide for safe pedestrian mobility</td>
<td>- Maintain quality of wastewater management, conserve &amp; protect water supply</td>
<td>- Work together to ensure that government &amp; institutional facilities &amp; projects promote mutual benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improve &amp; maintain public safety in all parts of the City</td>
<td>- Provide for safe bicycle mobility</td>
<td>- Use stormwater management to reduce impacts on water quality</td>
<td>- Address the potential impacts of expansion on the tax base</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improve social well-being of Albany citizens in need</td>
<td>- Increase transit options &amp; use</td>
<td>- Increase recycling &amp; reduce the solid waste stream</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>- Improve vehicular connections to &amp; within Albany</td>
<td>- Provide equitable Communication opportunities</td>
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<td>- Improve the Port of Albany &amp; freight resilience to climate</td>
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<td>- Maintain Airport as regional hub</td>
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**ALBANY 2030 RECOMMENDED PROJECTS**

The Albany 2030 team developed 27 distinct projects from the Vision Statement, interrelationships among Plan Systems strategies, and the effectiveness they have within the community. These projects cut across systems and are designed to produce strategic change throughout all aspects of the City of Albany.

**Short Term**

(Initiated 1-2 years)

1. Create a Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
2. Develop the Harriman Campus as a mixed use, transit-oriented community.
3. Establish baseline Citywide Community Assessments.
4. Create a Strategic Arts Welcoming Program
5. Develop a Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan.
6. Hire a marketing consultant to develop a city-wide marketing strategy.
7. Develop a system for inter-departmental and community data sharing to improve government efficiency.
8. Create an “Albany Local” buy local/use local program.
10. Create a PILOT task force and implement a fair and consistent PILOT program.

**Intermediate Term**

(Initiated 2-5 years)

1. Prepare a comprehensive update to the city’s zoning ordinance.
2. Create a comprehensive waterfront development strategy for the Hudson River waterfront.
3. Grow and strengthen the local Small Business Development Community.
4. Develop a commercial/office space reuse plan and program.
5. Develop a complete streets plan, policy, and design guidelines.
6. Develop a green infrastructure system.
7. Develop a city-wide parking management strategy.
8. Expand the current street-tree management plan into a comprehensive urban forestry program.

**Long Term**

(Initiated 5-10 years)

1. Develop intermodal transit centers.
2. Develop a model urban rehabilitation building code.
3. Develop context appropriate design guidelines, manuals, and pattern books.

**Ongoing**

(Throughout full implementation)

1. Establish formal lobbying presence at State and Federal levels.
2. Develop a regional Economic Development task force.
3. Implement the initiatives of the Mayor’s Office of Energy and Sustainability.
4. Reconvene an Education task force to develop a new Urban Education Agenda.
5. Implement the Bicycle Master Plan.
6. Complete & implement the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategic Plan.
7. Implement a brownfield redevelopment strategy, starting with a Step Two BOA Nomination Study.