

Comprehensive Policy Plan  
"Process"

Policy Letter 801: Reconciling Planning Policies and Actions

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Fargo Comprehensive Policy Plan articulates the vision and desires of its citizens and elected officials for growth into the future, but policies cannot anticipate every situation and every proposal which might be to the benefit of the community. Policies in one sphere of interest, such as land use, may not be compatible with policies in other areas of activity such as financing or engineering.

This plan will be used as a bench mark for subsequent development regulations and land use decisions but as times and circumstances change, long standing policies may become obsolete and counterproductive. As public and private spending for facilities and services continue to increase and citizen and development interests change and expand daily, the City's planning policies and actions must reflect an up to date approach to meeting the needs and desires of the community. A practice and a process must be developed to ensure planning decisions for growth in the community are consistent, and address issues impacting citizens today and into the future.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

**The City of Fargo should adopt the practice of maintaining a detailed record of the decisions made in land use development, and the reasons behind those decisions. Additionally, periodic review of the current policies and those decisions made in land use development should be required to reconcile conflicts that become apparent.**

**CONCLUSION:**

An annual or periodic review by the Planning Commission, together with follow up recommendations, will serve to keep any long standing or resulting plans current and viable, and conversely avoid the "plan on the shelf" syndrome. Increased demands by developers for an accelerated permitting process and a need for greater consistency in the land use decision making process are but two very strong reasons for enhancing the City's record keeping and review systems.