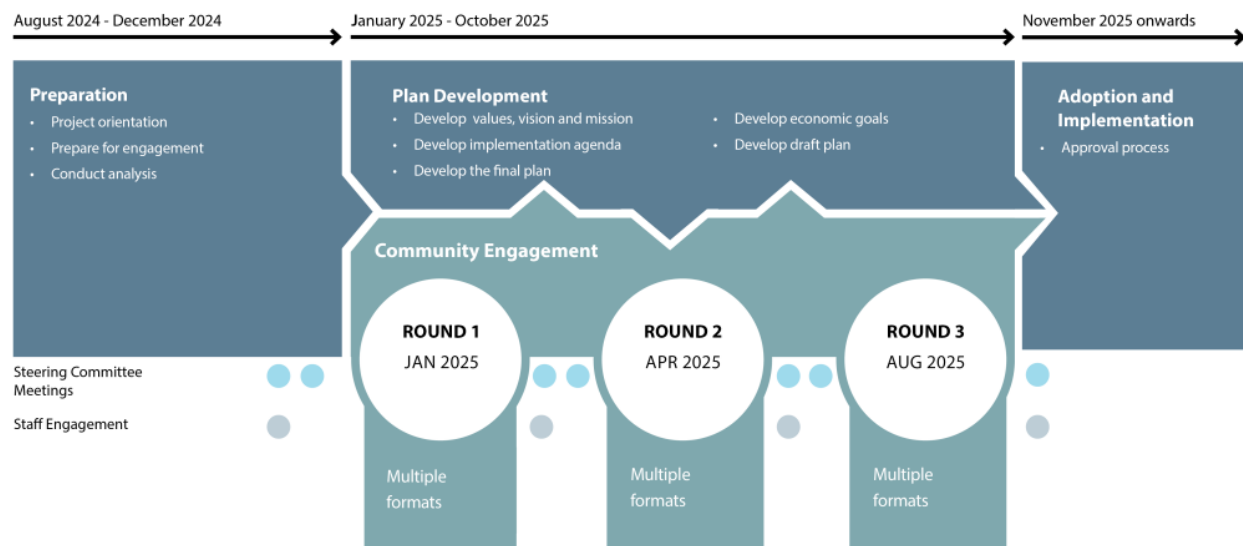


To: Members of Gahanna City Council
From: Council Representatives on Steering Committee Bowers & Schnetzer
Date: October 11, 2024
Re: Strategic Plan Steering Committee Meeting 1 Report

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee was convened for its first meeting on Wednesday, October 9. The Committee is comprised of 30 members representing demographic diversity of the community. Nearly all members were in attendance, and the meeting was observed by senior administration members.

At the meeting, the team from PlanningNext, the contractor facilitating the strategic plan process, introduced themselves to the Committee. Sr. Dir. Miranda Vollmer, the designated project lead within the City, also gave a brief introduction. Committee members shared brief introductions about themselves and how long each member has been anchored to Gahanna. Committee members indicated ties to Gahanna ranging from their lifetime to as little as 2 years of residency.

PlanningNext facilitators shared the process, outcomes, goals, and brand of the Strategic Plan. PlanningNext facilitators indicated that we are in the Preparation phase of the project and shared the below timeline, which is also included on the Strategic Plan website. They shared the community outreach opportunities and solicited feedback from the Committee members on how to obtain optimal community engagement.



In small breakout groups, the Committee members engaged in a group exercise to discuss their views of Gahanna. The small groups then shared with the whole Committee. Following that process, Committee members were encouraged to think about their connections to community stakeholders. At the next meeting on December 11, the PlanningNext facilitators will share exercises and help Committee members engage in community outreach efforts. A shared goal

will be to obtain meaningful engagement from 1000 community stakeholders that reflect the diversity of our community.

Councilmembers, residents, and stakeholders are encouraged to review the Strategic Plan website and its About page: <https://ourgahanna.com/home/>

The overall process was well organized, well facilitated, and gave clear direction on intended next steps. Community organizations, resident groups, and civic associations may be contacted by Committee members to participate in a community engagement session in Winter 2024-2025.