

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 7, 2013

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 7, 2013 at 7:32 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Smith
Alex Finter
Christopher Glover
Dina Higgins*
Dennis Kavanaugh
Scott Somers

COUNCIL ABSENT

Dave Richins

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Dee Ann Mickelsen

Mayor Smith excused Councilmember Richins from the entire meeting.

(Councilwoman Higgins participated in the meeting via electronic equipment.)

1-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program and estimated schedule.

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities (PRCF) Department Director Marc Heirshberg displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and provided a brief update on the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program. He introduced City Engineer Beth Huning who was prepared to address the Council.

Mr. Heirshberg reported that the lake construction at Riverview Park is underway and that playground equipment and shade have been ordered. He stated that the Construction Contract Award for this project will be brought back to the Council on March 18th.

Mr. Heirshberg advised that staff is currently working on the property acquisitions/negotiations at Monterey Park. He also said that in late March trees will be planted along the property line bordering Monterey Park to create a buffer between the park and the neighborhood. He added that a temporary road and parking lot will also be installed to address some of the traffic concerns in the area. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Transportation Department Director Dan Cleavenger explained that the Transportation Department will utilize excess asphalt millings to inexpensively create a road and parking lot at Monterey Park. He said that the temporary parking lot will be able to accommodate approximately 85 vehicles.

City Manager Christopher Brady remarked that the current parking lot at Monterey Park is very small and it is anticipated that the temporary parking lot will correct some of the neighborhood parking issues in that area.

Mr. Heirshberg continued with the presentation and said that the City has received a \$1 million federal grant that will be used for the construction of the Riverview Bicycle/Pedestrian Path. He noted that the design phase of the bicycle/pedestrian path is 95% completed.

Ms. Huning clarified that the Riverview Bicycle/Pedestrian Path project was originally part of the Army Corp of Engineer's Salt River Restoration (Va Shly'ay Akimel) project. She said that based on where the Va Shly'ay Akimel project ended, the design phase of the bicycle/pedestrian path is 95% complete. She stated that the original plans will need to be obtained and path project will need to be separated from the Va Shly'ay Akimel project before it can be put out for bid.

Ms. Huning reported that the City received a \$146,000 grant to complete the design phase of the bicycle/pedestrian path and a \$1 million federal grant to construct it. She said that staff will need to work through the requirements of the federal grant in order to bring the project into compliance.

Mr. Heirshberg said that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to obtain a project designer for the Mesa High Aquatics Center will be released on March 13th. He noted that an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools (MPS) is currently under review by the City Attorney's office. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Heirshberg stated that an RFQ to obtain an architect for the Federal Building project has been released and is due back on March 21st. He advised that Project Lead, Tom Wilson and Lisa Anderson, who is the CEO of the Mesa Historical Museum, are coordinating the activities for this project. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Heirshberg provided a brief update on the status of other parks projects (See Page 4 of Attachment 1) as follows:

- Pioneer Park – RFQ for designer to be released within the next 30 days
- Medina/Hawes Park – frontage street work is currently under design
- Sports Complex (Kleinman and Mesa Education Center) – RFQ for designer to be released in the next 45-60 days
- Mesa Jr. High Sports Complex – RFQ for designer to be released in the next 45-60 days

In response to a question from Mayor Smith, Mr. Heirshberg explained that staff will be drafting an IGA for a long-term lease with MPS, which will be reviewed by the City Attorney's office within the next couple of weeks.

Mayor Smith expressed concern regarding the possibility of MPS demolishing buildings that the City intends to keep.

Mr. Brady advised that MPS has indicated that they are waiting for the City to identify which buildings they want to keep. He said that a Code Assessment will be conducted to determine the condition of the buildings before the City decides which buildings should be demolished. He noted that MPS will be responsible for the remediation and demolition of the site.

Mr. Heirshberg reported that the City's appraisal of Buckhorn Baths has been completed and property acquisitions/negotiations are ongoing. He said that Environmental and Sustainability Deputy Director Scott Bouchie successfully obtained a \$50,000 grant for the Phase II Environmental Study that will be conducted at Buckhorn Baths. He noted that staff is currently working with the property owners to obtain an access agreement for the completion of said environmental study. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Heirshberg further reported that staff, in collaboration with "Placemaking Mesa" students at Arizona State University (ASU), will be meeting to discuss the plans for the Downtown Urban Plaza. He said that students will work with the Planning Department and consultants to develop the design concepts for the Downtown Urban Plaza. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Heirshberg displayed the 2012 Parks Capital Improvement Program (\$77.2 million) project schedule and noted that each of the projects have been assigned a Project Manager. (See Pages 6 and 7 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the presentation.

1-b. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on an update of the City's General Plan.

Planning Director John Wesley displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) and provided an update on the City's General Plan. He said that staff is seeking direction on the proposed General Plan outline, focus areas and the new character type approach for land use.

Mr. Wesley briefly highlighted staff's community outreach efforts thus far, which include a variety of community events and group meetings. He advised that citizens can share their ideas and leave comments regarding the City's General Plan on the "This is My Mesa" website.

Mr. Wesley reported that citizens were asked to complete a survey and identify possible characteristic of what Mesa could be like in the year 2040. He stated that the characteristics identified include, but are not limited to: maintaining the City's existing neighborhoods, providing quality open spaces, healthy living environments, improved economic base, higher educational opportunities and high quality arts and culture programs. (See Page 4 and 5 of Attachment 2)

Senior Planner Tom Ellsworth discussed the focus of the General Plan Update and described Mesa as a sprawling "boomburb" that has grown into an auto-oriented "bedroom community." He stated that the Planning Advisory Committee has indicated their desire to transform Mesa into a "21st Century American City." He highlighted various characteristics that residents envision for the community such as:

- Vibrant, stable, safe neighborhoods
- Stable and diverse economy
- Public spaces with high quality cultural amenities

Mr. Ellsworth briefly reviewed some of the key objectives for creating and maintaining neighborhoods and said that Council Strategic Initiatives, iMesa topics and State statutes will also need to be considered throughout the transformation process. (See Pages 9 through 13 of Attachment 2) He said that one of the goals will be to repair the “sprawl” that has occurred across the City and create walkable, vibrant, connected neighborhoods.

Mr. Ellsworth stated that the current land use map is very specific with regards to where certain densities can be located. He explained that character land use focuses on the desired character of an area rather than a particular land use. (See Pages 14, 15 and 16 of Attachment 2) He displayed the Draft Character Area Map of the General Plan and briefly identified the different land use character types as follows:

- Neighborhoods
- Neighborhood Village Centers
- Transit Corridor
- Urban Core
- Community Commercial Centers
- Employment Districts
- Specialty Districts
- Parks/Open spaces

Mr. Wesley commented that the Character Area Map that has been presented is a starting point that will evolve as the process moves forward and more feedback is received from the public.

In response to a question from Councilwoman Higgins, Mr. Wesley explained that a second map layer is being developed that will further define specific character types within the neighborhoods, such as agricultural areas, citrus areas, traditional neighborhoods and manufactured home parks.

Mr. Ellsworth pointed out that the DMB Property at Eastmark is currently identified as a mixed-use community on the Character Area Map. He said that staff will need to determine what the proper designation should be for the Eastmark area.

Mr. Ellsworth advised that the Planning Advisory Committee has indicated that they would like for the downtown area to be designated separately from other urban core areas in the City. He noted that other planned “urban-style” core areas are located at Ellsworth and Elliott Roads and Ellsworth and Ray Roads.

Mr. Ellsworth reviewed the timeline for the General Plan Update and said that neighborhood outreach efforts will continue. He indicated that the first draft should be completed by October 2013 and the final Draft Plan will be presented to the Council in the spring of 2014. (See Page 17 of Attachment 2)

Mayor Smith expressed his support for the idea of allowing the City to naturally develop so that “living” can occur. He commented that the current General Plan Map does not provide opportunities for citizens to interact within their neighborhoods. He noted that the City currently has specific gathering places that are only accessible by vehicle.

Councilmember Kavanaugh indicated his support for the General Plan Update, which he said outlines the City's goals and focuses on its great neighborhoods. He stated that the term "sprawl repair" encapsulates the City's desire to provide more connectivity between local businesses and neighborhoods.

Councilmember Somers remarked that smaller plans such as those created for the Gateway area, the Central Main Street Plan, Transit Oriented Development and the DMB property, include ideas on how to repair the sprawl and create the connectivity that is desired. He suggested that some of the ideas from these smaller plans be incorporated into the General Plan.

Mr. Wesley concurred with Councilmember Somers' comments and said that the General Plan will reference the subarea plans.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the presentation.

1-c. Hear a presentation and discuss the 2013 State Legislative Update.

Assistant to the City Manager Scott Butler displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 3**) and reported that since the First Regular Session of the 51st Arizona Legislature convened on January 14, 2013, a total of 1,145 bills have been introduced. He stated that of that number, staff has identified approximately 190 bills that could have a potential impact on the manner in which Mesa conducts business and provides services to its residents. He added that there is still a Republican majority in both legislative chambers, but noted that it is no longer a super-majority. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Butler advised that the State's budget for FY 2013, which includes the final year for the special one-cent sales tax is \$8.5 billion. He said that the Governor's Budget Proposal for FY 2014 is \$8.9 billion and calls for additional increases of approximately \$350 million in new spending. He noted that the proposed budget for FY 2015 is also estimated to be \$8.9 billion. (See Page 3 of Attachment 3)

Responding to a question from Mayor Smith, Mr. Butler explained that due to some robust revenue gains the State is experiencing a recovering economy ahead of what was estimated. He indicated that he would research and determine the amount of federal funds the State will receive this year.

Mayor Smith commented that while most entities are experiencing flat or relatively modest increases in sales tax, the State's income taxes have increased significantly.

Mr. Butler concurred with Mayor Smith's comments and said that revenue gains have been more robust than projected. He stated that it is estimated that there will be a \$300 million difference between the Legislature's proposed budget and the Governor's proposed budget.

Mayor Smith noted that the State is down an estimated \$2 billion from its peak spending.

Mr. Butler reported that the Governor's FY 2014 budget proposal will not have an impact on the State's Urban Revenue Sharing or State-collected sales tax. He added that the annual diversion of Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) will remain flat at \$39 million. (See Page 4 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Butler discussed House Bill (HB) 2657, which relates to the Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) changes. He said that the Governor assembled a TPT Task Force Reform Committee to identify ways in which to simplify the TPT system and make it more "business friendly."

Mr. Butler reported that the TPT Task Force came up with ten recommendations, of which, the National League of Cities and Towns has agreed with seven. He said that the recommendations will bring municipalities into compliance with the Marketplace Fairness Act which will allow State and local governments to collect sales taxes from online purchases.

Mr. Butler briefly touched upon a few of the TPT Task Force recommendations as follows:

- State Department of Revenue will take over all collection of TPT
- Only the State Department of Revenue will be able to audit businesses
- Eliminate "Prime Contracting TPT" and replace with a Point of Sale tax

Mr. Butler advised that Mesa is currently one of 18 cities in the State that collects its own local sales tax. He said that replacing the Prime Contracting TPT with a Point of Sale tax will negatively impact the City by an estimated \$10 million per year. He added that the Governor is proposing that the Point of Sale tax be phased in or delayed until 2015 to allow cities time to adjust.

Mr. Butler reported that Mayor Smith has participated in discussions with the Governor and her staff in hopes of reaching a compromise that would meet the objectives of the TPT Task Force. He said that creating an online portal for which businesses could make a single payment, regardless of how many jurisdictions they may operate in, has been proposed. He added that such an online portal would simplify the process for taxpayers.

Mr. Butler discussed the recommendation for a single business audit which, he said, would provide certainty and ensure that businesses are not over burdened by multi-jurisdictional audits.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Mr. Butler advised that the Governor's budget proposal does not call for additional auditor positions.

Mayor Smith remarked that the Governor's staff would not commit to any increase in funding or staffing. He stated that if you increase the audit scope, but maintain the same level of staffing, there will be a decrease in the number of audits completed.

Mayor Smith further remarked that a vast majority of Mesa's sales tax comes from single businesses that operate exclusively within the City of Mesa. He indicated that under a State run audit scheme these types of businesses would rarely, if ever be audited. He added that the State auditors will focus primarily on multi-jurisdictional businesses.

Mr. Butler concurred with Mayor Smith's comments and said that over the last several years the Department of Revenue has experienced some dramatic cuts. He stated that there are concerns that the Department of Revenue will not be able to handle all of the TPT collections, distribute the City's payments in a timely manner and ensure that businesses remain in compliance with their tax payments.

Mr. Butler reviewed a number of Economic Development bills and noted that many of the bills are targeting tax credits or tax incentives instead of across the board tax cuts. He briefly touched upon some of the Economic Development and Development Services bills that have been introduced as follows:

- HB 2342 – increased research; tax credit refund
- HB 2456 – revenue allocation (Tax Incremental Financing)
- HB 2514 – economic recapture (Tax Incremental Financing)
- SB 1242 – multimedia production (Movie Tax Credit); tax incentive
- SB 1231 – public buildings; construction; indemnity

Mr. Butler briefly discussed SB 1321, which he said is being moved forward by the homebuilders in an attempt to preempt the City's ability to adopt International Code Council (ICC) Energy Codes. (See Page 6 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Butler commented that there are a few bills that may have unintended financial consequences. He explained that HB 2347, which relates to tax levy and bond costs, indicates that the City's tax levy cannot exceed the amount necessary to meet the annual bond payment. He said that currently, the City of Mesa sets a flat rate levy over the life of the bond.

Mayor Smith commented that HB 2347 would prohibit the City from leveling the amount of tax that Mesa taxpayers will pay over the life of the bond. He stated that under this measure taxpayers would be subjected to "swings" in the amount of taxes they would pay. He said that having a set tax amount that is paid out over a ten-year period provides more transparency.

Mr. Butler advised that HB 2544, which is being put forward by the Arizona Tax Research Association, would prohibit a parcel tax from being assessed against property owners for the purpose of providing a municipal public service. He said that property owners in the City of Paradise Valley are currently assessed a parcel tax based on the size of their property which is used to cover the cost of their fire service.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the assessment of fees/taxes levied by parcel, which in the City of Mesa would require a vote of the citizens before it could be assessed.

Government Relations Coordinator Miranda DeWitt briefly reviewed photo radar prohibition HB 2579. She advised that while this bill failed in the legislature, it could resurface as a striker amendment on another bill.

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers, Ms. DeWitt explained that a striker amendment is a tool used in the legislature to change or amend the text of one bill by replacing it with completely new (and usually unrelated) text.

Mayor Smith commented that some bills are never intended to make it through the process, but are designed to be used as a vehicle in which legislators can continue to try and move a measure forward once it has failed.

Ms. DeWitt remarked that HB 2554 – Firearm regulation, would require the placement of appropriate signage and firearm lockers at all public facilities and events. She stated that the fiscal impact of placing firearm lockers in all of the City's facilities, as well as the manpower to staff them is unknown at this time.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Ms. DeWitt explained that the definition of a public facility does not exclude sporting facilities and stadiums. She said that all sporting facilities would be subject to the requirements of this bill.

Mr. Bulter discussed the firearms provision as it relates to sports facilities and said that there is a possibility that as HB 2554 moves forward, sports facilities could be excluded. He noted that in two years, Glendale's University of Phoenix Stadium will be hosting the Super Bowl and one of the provisions in Glendale's contract with the National Football League (NFL) relates to firearm regulations. He said that if the University of Phoenix Stadium were to fall out of compliance with its contracts it would have a negative impact on the economy. In addition, he said that performers at the Mesa Arts Center (MAC) and other venues have specific clauses in their contracts with regard to firearm provisions, therefore, this measure would have a fiscal impact on the City.

Ms. DeWitt advised that HB 2185 which relates to Alarm businesses and agents, will allow law enforcement to obtain the information they need to safely respond to alarm calls. She said that currently law enforcement is precluded from obtaining necessary information related to alarm subscribers.

Ms. DeWitt also spoke regarding HB 2262, which relates to scrap metal dealers. She advised that last year alone the City had over \$800,000 in air conditioner thefts. He said that staff is working on adding some provisions to this bill that will help combat scrap metal theft.

Mr. Butler remarked that the City of Mesa, Arizona Public Service (APS), Salt River Project (SRP), law enforcement and business owners have joined together to help move HB 2262 forward.

Ms. Dewitt reported that HB 2518 would allow cities and towns to establish a new voting system that would permit voters in the Primary election to vote for as many candidates in a single office as they chose. She explained that the top two candidates would then move forward to the General Election.

Further discussion ensued regarding HB 2518, which if adopted would require a Charter change since the City's elections are governed by the City Charter.

Ms. DeWitt discussed HB 2578, which would create penalties for all government employees who knowingly base a licensing decision, in whole or in part, on a requirement or condition that is not specifically authorized by statute, rule, ordinance or code.

Mr. Butler clarified that according to Representative Warren Peterson, there have been licensing decisions made by "aggressive" staffers who have required individuals to complete certain measures that exceed regulations.

Ms. DeWitt briefly reviewed SB 1210, which relates to municipal policies and shared revenues. She said that this bill would have required an ombudsman and/or an independent auditor to investigate City personnel when there has been a violation of purchasing policies. She explained that the bill would require 10% of the City's State Shared Revenues be withheld as a penalty for the violation. She reported that SB 1210 failed on the Senate floor and noted that the City currently has policies in place to address complaints and violations.

Mr. Butler continued with the presentation and said that this year Arizona State University (ASU) has put forth a budget that includes increased financing and resources for its Polytechnic campus. He indicated that ASU and other universities have established goals related to per pupil funding, performance requirements and soft capital needs for facilities throughout the State. He noted that the ASU budget request is consistent with the Governor's proposed budget.

Mr. Butler stated that ASU is seeking the City's support in moving their budget proposal forward in hopes that the State will continue to adequately fund institutions of higher learning. He said that staff is requesting that ASU be allowed to name the City of Mesa as a supporter of their budget request as it relates to higher education.

Mayor Smith stated that it was the consensus of the Council that ASU be allowed to name the City of Mesa as a supporter of ASU's budget request.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the presentation.

2. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- 2-a. Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting held on January 23, 2013.
- 2-b. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held on February 5, 2013.
- 2-c. Public Safety Committee meeting held on February 12, 2013.
- 2-d. Sustainability and Transportation Committee meeting held on February 25, 2013.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Vice Mayor Finter, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Councilmember Kavanaugh: | Annual Governor's Arts Awards |
| Councilwoman Higgins: | Grand Opening of Vista Pavilion at Las Sendas |

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 8, 2013 – 2nd Friday Night Out

Saturday, March 9, 2013, 2:00 p.m. – “Mesa Rocks” block party

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

5. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

6. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Glover, that the Council adjourn the Study Session at 8:59 a.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6-a. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A (3)) Discussion or consultation with designated representatives of the City in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City's representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale, or lease of real property. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(7)) Discussion or consultation with the City Attorney in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City Attorney regarding the City's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(4))

1. Land acquisition for Buckhorn Baths and Monterey Park

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Executive Session adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, INTERIM CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 7th day of March, 2013. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, INTERIM CITY CLERK

bdw
(attachments 3)

March 7, 2013



mesa•az

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities

Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program and Estimated Schedule

Current Activity

- Riverview Park
 - Continuing lake construction
 - Playground equipment and shade ordered
 - Construction contract award comes to Council on March 18th
- Monterey Park
 - Trees will be along property line bordering Monterey in late March
 - Parking lot work began this week to address traffic concerns on Monterey
 - Property acquisition negotiations ongoing

Current Activity

- Riverview Bike/Ped Path
 - \$1 million dollar Federal grant received
 - 95% design
- Mesa High Aquatic Center
 - RFQ for designer to be released March 13th
 - Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and Mesa Public Schools under review
- Federal Building
 - RFQ for architects is currently on the street due March 21st
 - Project lead, Tom Wilson, coordinating activities with Lisa Anderson, CEO Mesa Historical Museum

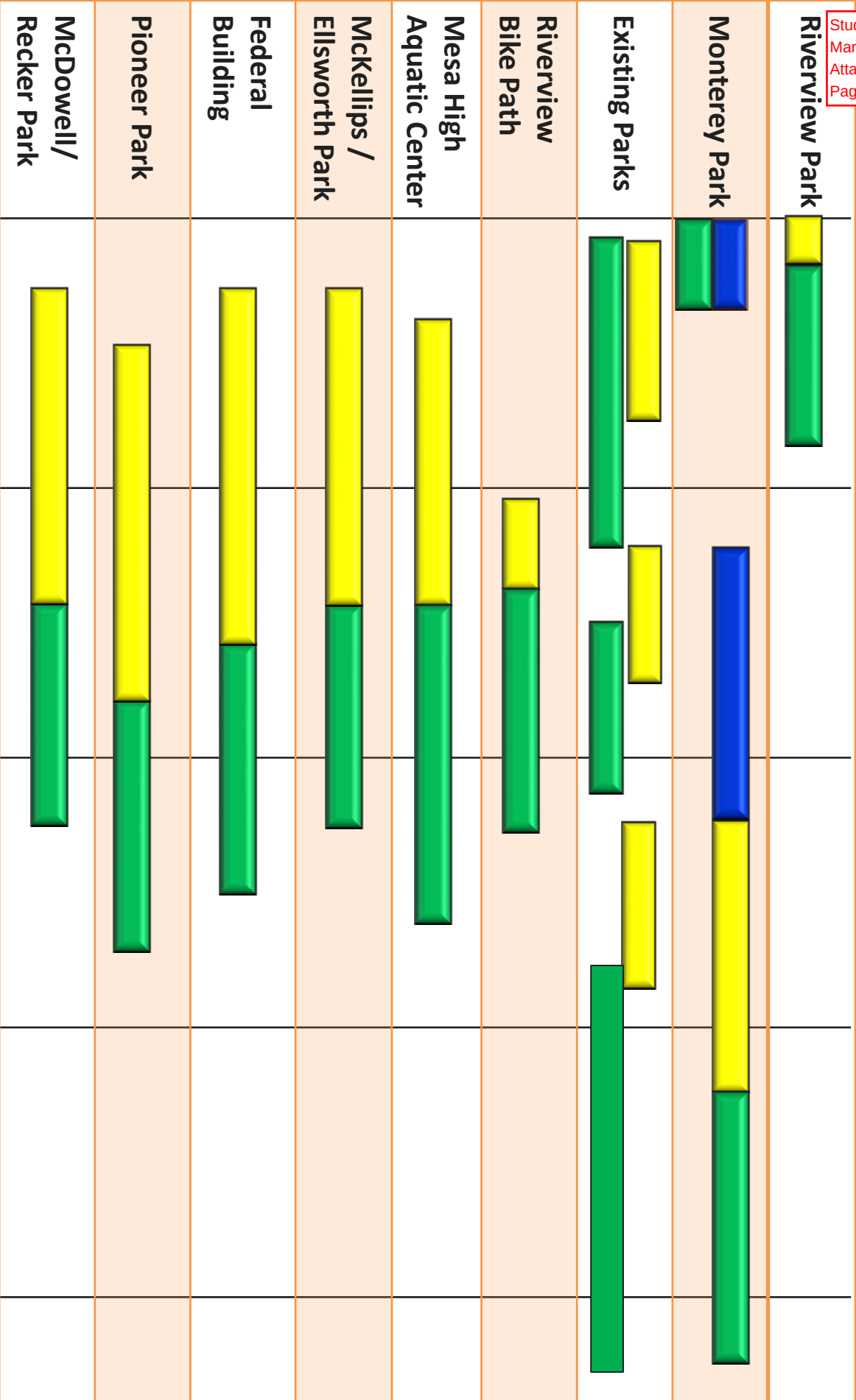
Current Activity

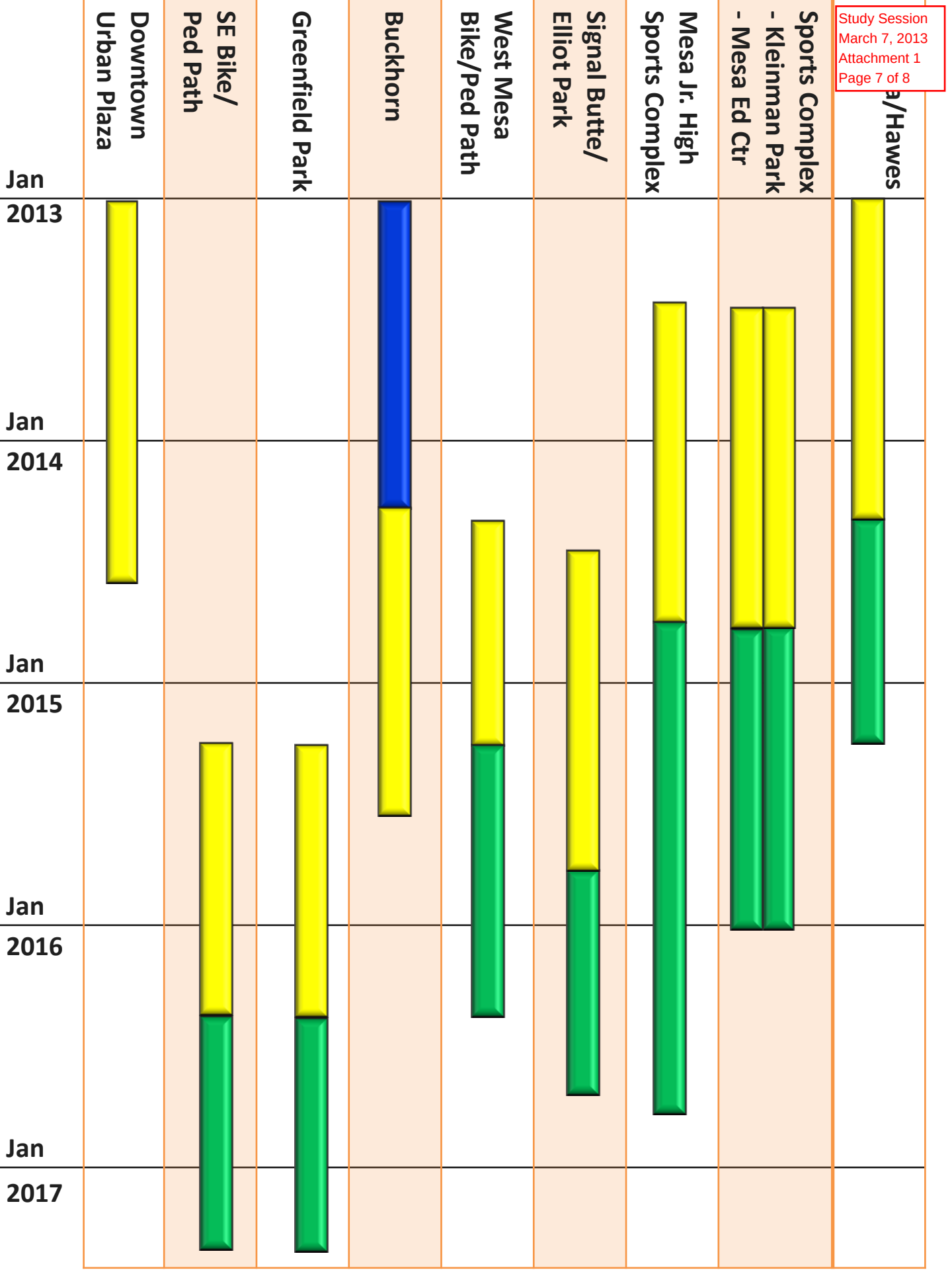
- Pioneer Park
 - RFQ for designer to be released within 30 days
- Medina/Hawes Park
 - Frontage street work under design
- Sports Complex (Kleinman & Mesa Education Center)
 - RFQ for designer to be released within 45-60 days
- Mesa Jr. High Sports Complex
 - Code assessment underway
 - RFQ for designer to be released within 45-60 days

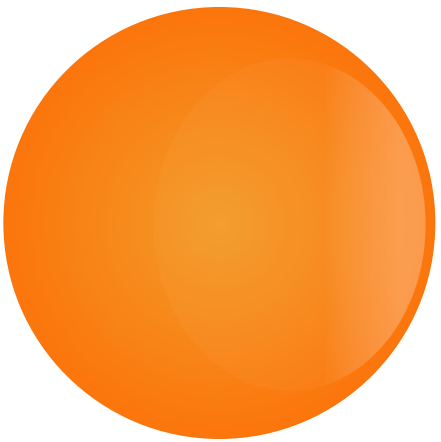
Current Activity

- Buckhorn Baths
 - City Appraisal completed
 - Property acquisition negotiations ongoing
 - \$50,000 Grant for Phase II Environmental
- Downtown Urban Plaza
 - Staff continues to work with ASU on Placemaking Mesa Course
 - Will begin coordinating with consultants to review and work with ASU students on design concepts early fall 2013.

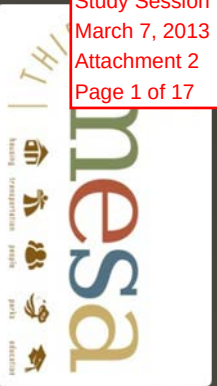
12 Parks Capital Improvement Program (\$77.2 million)







QUESTIONS?

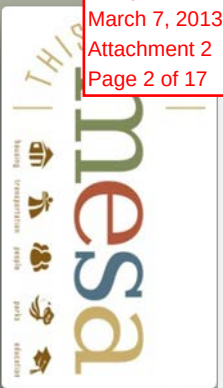


General Plan Update

City Council



March 7, 2013

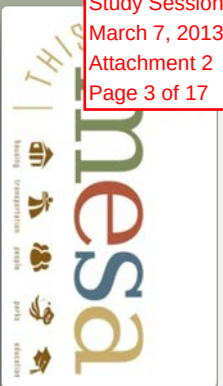


Purpose of Presentation

Provide an update on activities to date

Receive Council direction on:

- Proposed outline and focus areas
- Proposed character type approach for land use

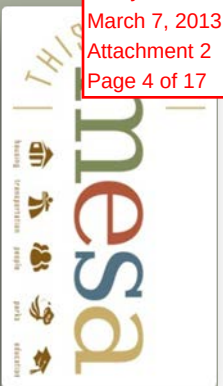


Where We Have Been

☞ Variety of community events – Celebrate Mesa, pancake breakfasts, Building Stronger Neighborhoods, 2nd Friday, etc.

☞ Variety of groups – Downtown Mesa, Chamber of Commerce, Dobson Ranch HOA Board, West Mesa CDC Board, Developers Advisory Forum, etc.

☞ On the web at www.thisismymesa.org



What We Learned

Through completion of approximately 150 surveys:

- 80 90% - Maintain existing neighborhoods
- 80 85% - Provide quality open spaces and healthy living environments
- 80 82% - Become more pedestrian friendly, continue to improve economic base, expand higher education opportunities, & provide high quality arts and culture programs
- 80 75% - Maintain the unique areas of Mesa and create more recognizable neighborhoods
- 80 71% - Expand transportation and transit options and develop vacant properties
- 80 63% - Maintain downtown as the primary urban core and improve the quality of architecture in the built environment



What We Learned

Through over 100 comments completing the phrase

“In 2040, my Mesa is a community...

- with lots of parks, shade, trails, and recreation space
- with choice and variety for things to do from high quality museums to active downtown to good restaurants and shopping
- that provides a high quality of education for children and adults
- that is economically strong with a stable job base
- with interesting and innovative local businesses
- with an extensive transit and bike system



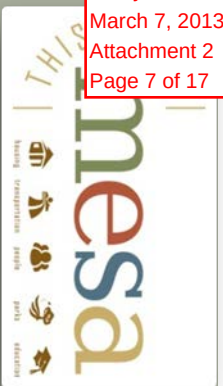
Focus for General Plan Update

Mesa today: a sprawling “boomburb”

- Product of rapid growth 1960 - 2000
- Auto-oriented
- Bedroom community

Desired future: 21st Century American city

- Vibrant, stable, safe neighborhoods with sense of place
- Stable, diverse economy
- Great public spaces and high quality cultural amenities



Proposed Plan Outline

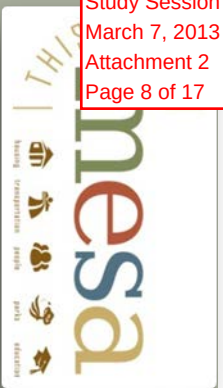
☞ Section I: Introduction

☞ Section II: Transforming the City

- Character types
- Neighborhoods
- Economy/Jobs
- Public places

☞ Section III. Supporting Services and Infrastructure

☞ Section IV: Administration



Transforming the City

Transforming into a 21st Century American City

- o Need to consider topics such as diversity, urban design, sustainability, public health

Focus on Three Sub-Sections:

- o Creating and maintaining a variety of great neighborhoods
- o Growing and maintaining a stable, diverse economic base
- o Providing rich public spaces and cultural amenities

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Creating and maintaining a variety of great neighborhoods

0 Key Issues:

- Maintaining neighborhoods/unique character areas
- Pedestrian friendly, walkable, neighborhoods; sprawl repair
- Investment and re-investment in neighborhoods
- Creation of neighborhood centers

Council Strategic Initiatives:

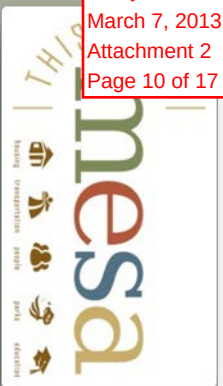
- Community Engagement
- Quality of life
- Financial Stability

iMesa Topics:

- Vibrant Downtown
- Livability
- Transportation

State Statute Elements:

- Revitalization and Redevelopment
- Housing
- Environment and Conservation
- Transportation
- Energy
- Parks and Recreation



Transforming the City

Growing and maintaining a stable, diverse economic base

o Key Issues:

- Attract and retain diverse jobs
- Education
- Health Care
- Regional retail opportunities

Council Strategic Initiatives:

- Economic Development
- Community Engagement
- Financial Stability

iMesa Topics:

- Higher Education
- Vibrant Downtown
- Transportation
- Economy

State Statute Elements:

- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Growth Areas
- Energy



Transforming the City

Providing rich public spaces and cultural amenities

o Key Issues:

- High Quality Public Places
- Community/regional parks and trails
- Recreational Amenities
- Cultural Amenities

Council Strategic Initiatives:

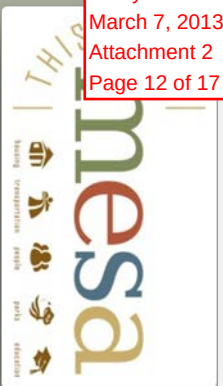
- Quality of Life

iMesa Topics:

- Arts and Culture
- Livability
- Recreation

State Statute Elements:

- Parks and Open Space
- Environment and Conservation
- Transportation



Supporting Service & Infrastructure

Public infrastructure in support of a 21st Century City

o Key Issues:

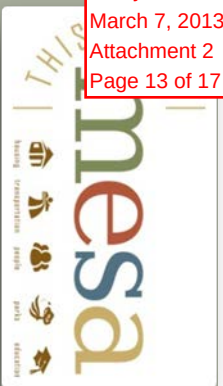
- Public safety
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Public facilities

Council Strategic Initiatives:

- Financial Stability
- Regional Leadership
- Quality of Life

State Statute Elements:

- Safety
- Public Facilities
- Utilities
- Transportation



Administration

Implementing and administering the Plan

- o Key Issues:
 - Costs of Development (City and Developer)
 - General Plan Amendment Process
 - Implementation Elements

Council Strategic Initiatives:

- Financial Stability
- Regional Leadership
- Community Engagement

State Statute Elements:

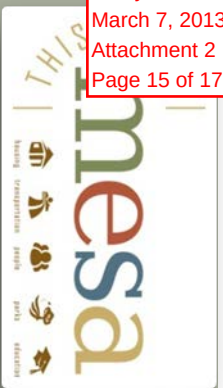
- Cost of Development



Character Types

- Focus on desired character rather than particular land use
- Proposed character area types:
 - Neighborhoods – Primarily residential areas with supporting parks, schools, and small commercial areas
 - Neighborhood Village Centers – Commercial and mixed-use nodes of activity, generally between 15 and 25 acres in size, that serve the surrounding neighborhoods
 - Transit Corridor – Light rail and other high capacity transit corridors designated for intense, urban development
 - Urban Core – The traditional downtown of Mesa; includes a wide range of land uses in a traditional neighborhood and urban form; other large mixed use areas with an urban development form

Character Types



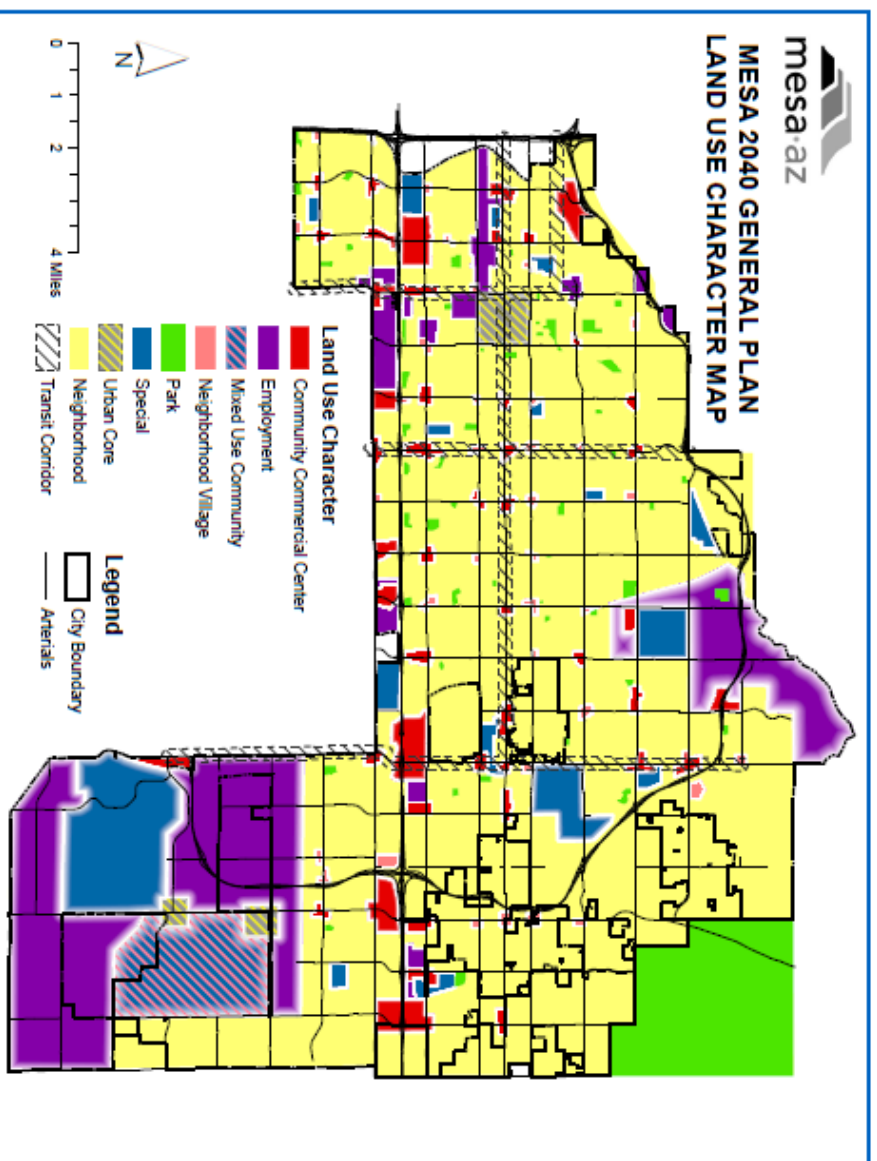
Character area types (cont.)

- Community Commercial Centers – Commercial centers generally larger than 25 acres that serve the larger community; primarily retail commercial areas, but may include offices, residential, and other supporting uses
- Employment Districts – Large areas devoted to primarily employment uses such as manufacturing and warehousing
- Specialty Districts – Areas for large, single uses such as college campuses and hospital campuses
- Parks/Open space – Community and regional scale open space areas



Character Types

Draft Character area map





Next Steps

- ✧ Planning and Zoning Board Presentation March 20
- ✧ iMesa Village Meetings
 - Last week of March, first 2 weeks of April
- ✧ Other community events
- ✧ Council update June/July 2013
- ✧ First draft plan by October 2013
- ✧ Second draft plan by January 2014
- ✧ Final draft plan by May 2014
- ✧ Council action June/July 2014
- ✧ Vote November 2014



2013 City of Mesa State Legislative Update

City Council

March 7, 2013



mesa·az



2013 Legislative Session

- First Regular Session of the 51st Arizona Legislature convened on January 14, 2013
- Republican Majority
- A total of 1145 bills have been introduced. Mesa has identified more than 190 bills that have a potential impact on the way we do business and provide services to the residents of Mesa.



Governor's Budget Proposal

Current

FY 2013: \$8.5B; \$725M surplus

Proposed

FY 2014: \$8.9B; \$313M surplus

FY 2015: \$8.9B; \$122M surplus

(Proposal and projections from the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting)



2014 Governor's Budget Proposal

- Impact to Cities and Towns
 - No impact to Urban Revenue Sharing or state-collected sales tax
 - Highway User Revenue Funds
 - Governor's Proposed Budget - \$39m in HURF funds will be diverted from cities and towns



TPT Simplification

- **HB 2657 Transaction Privilege Tax Changes (Lesko)**
 - State Administration
 - Single Audit
 - Prime Contracting TPT



- **Economic Development**

- HB 2342 increased research; tax credit refund (Tobin)
- HB 2456 revenue allocation district (Lovas)
- HB 2514 economic recapture district (Coleman)
- SB 1242 multimedia production; tax incentives (Melvin)

- **Development Services**

- SB 1321 residential energy efficiency; building codes (Griffin)
- SB 1231 public buildings; construction; indemnity (Reagan)

- **Finance**

- HB 2347 tax levy; bond costs (Lesko)
- HB 2544 city parcel tax; prohibition (Olson)



- **Public Safety**

- HB 2579 photo radar prohibition (Kwasman)
- HB 2554 firearm regulation; state preemption (Kavanaugh)
- HB 2185 alarm business; alarm agents (Fann)
- HB 2262 scrap metal dealers; registration (Forese)

- **Elections**

- HB 2518 cities and towns; approval voting (Olson)

- **Other**

- HB 2578 licensing; accountability; penalties; exceeding regulation (Kwasman)
- SB1210 municipalities; municipal policies shared revenues (Borges)



Higher Education Funding

- Arizona State University request for support of FY14 budget
- Budget request is consistent with Governor's proposed budget
- Addresses a funding inequity per full time equivalent (FTE) student; funding for performance requirements; soft capital needs



Comments & Questions