



CHAPTER 16. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENT

A. Implementation Tools

The following tools will be used to assist in the implementation of the General Plan.

Zoning Ordinance

The zoning ordinance describes the permitted development on each parcel of property. The ordinance establishes permitted land uses and the appropriate location, size, and height of structures, among other factors. The intent of the ordinance is to provide minimum requirements in support of the General Plan. The zoning ordinance is the primary tool available to turn the goals and policies of the General Plan into specific development requirements.

The City of Mesa has utilized a typical zoning ordinance, known as a Euclidean Code, which strives to group like uses together and separate uses that might be considered incompatible. In the latest update to the zoning ordinance adopted July 2013, and through the addition of a form-based code, greater efforts are being made to focus on the form the development takes and allow the integration of uses to create a more mixed-use environment where appropriate.

Subdivision Regulations

Subdivision Regulations govern the procedures and requirements under which property may be subdivided for development. They include design standards, engineering requirements,

and utility provisions. These regulations provide that property offered for sale has all of the provisions for quality development. They also help ensure that future public costs are minimized by requiring the installation of high-quality improvements.

Capital Improvements Plan

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) provides a significant opportunity to implement the General Plan. The CIP describes the location and timing of needed public facilities. It sets the priorities and funding for these projects over a five-year period. In addition to providing the needed public infrastructure, the Capital Improvements Plan can guide the location of new private development by controlling the timing and placement of the required public improvements. The General Plan should be a guide for the annual updating of the CIP.

Design Guidelines

Design Guidelines provide a framework for evaluating new development proposals on the basis of design, architecture, compatibility, landscaping, and other factors.

Annual Budget

The Municipal Budget directs the expenditures of the City each year. Operating under State spending limitations and the available tax revenues,



the budget sets priorities for activities and projects. These funding decisions have a significant impact on the future development of Mesa.

Annexation and Utility Service Guidelines

The City's annexation policies describe the location and timing of the inclusion of additional property within its corporate limits. Annexation provides the advantages of city services to the property owner. In combination with policies regarding the provision of utilities, annexation decisions can be an effective growth management tool.

Utility service policies govern the location and conditions for the provision of utility extensions and hookups to municipal systems beyond City limits. By regulating the placement of utilities, these policies can measurably affect the location and timing of development.

B. Neighborhood and Functional Plans

In addition to this General Plan, the City also creates and utilizes sub-area, neighborhood, and functional plans to address more specific needs of the community, and city operations. These plans provide details related to the general direction and policies contained in this Plan. They include actions, cost analyses, and other provisions that will assist in the implementation of the provisions of this Plan. While the General Plan sets the direction, these plans provide the methods and means for realizing the goals, policies, and strategies.

Neighborhood and functional plans that will assist in the implementation of the

General Plan includes those summarized below. These plans will be updated from time to time as necessary to respond to changing conditions. Further, additional plans will be developed over time to meet the needs of the community. These plans must be approved by the City Council prior to implementation. Sub-area and neighborhood area plans will be considered and adopted following the requirements for minor plan amendments and, when adopted, become part of the General Plan.

Transportation Master Plan

The 2040 Transportation Master Plan provides the details for implementing the goal, policies, and strategies of the Transportation chapter of the General Plan. It describes the existing and future transportation conditions in the Mesa. Detailed descriptions of needs and costs are provided for the street system, public transportation, bicycles, pedestrians, the downtown area, and transportation demand management. The Transportation Master Plan also describes the current and potential funding sources to meet the capital, operations, and maintenance needs of the City.

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Strategic Plan

The Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Strategic Plan, Gold Medal 2025, was approved by the City Council in February 2011. This plan provides the details for implementing the Parks and Recreation portion of the goal to provide rich, high-quality public spaces and cultural resources. It describes how the PRCF Department will provide



the amenities, resources, activities, and programs needed to help promote healthy lifestyles, build a sense of community, and provide safe places for people to recreate and celebrate. The implementation of this plan includes the need to continue to develop additional planning documents, the use of an annually updated five-year implementation plan, and an annual budget.

Water Resources Master Plan

The Water Resources Master Plan 2011 is a strategic plan that sets the City's plan to provide a safe, reliable, and affordable water supply to all residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of Mesa. The plan includes information on the current water supplies and water supply development as well as the latest projections for water supply and demand. It also includes recommendations for the actions needed to provide adequate, reliable and economical water supplies into the future.

Neighborhood Area Plans

Sub-area and neighborhood plans provides a framework for future decision-making for selected small geographic areas within the community. Developed through a public participation process, these plans contain statements of principles to be followed, recommendations for strategies to achieve desired goals and objectives, and a plan of action to guide future development. It is anticipated that, in time, all areas of the community will be covered by a sub-area or neighborhood area plan. Current plans that have been adopted by Council include:

- Citrus Sub-area Plan adopted April 2003
- Lehi Sub-area Plan adopted January 2006
- Falcon Field Sub-area Plan adopted April 2007
- West Main Street Area Plan adopted December 2007
- Mesa Gateway Strategic Development Plan adopted December 2008
- Central Main Street Plan adopted January 2012

C. Goals, Policies, and Strategies

Implementation

Many chapters of the Plan include a goal and several supporting policies and strategies to help achieve the goal. Implementation of the policies and strategies depend upon the efforts of various City departments and divisions. Following is a list of all of the goals, policies, and strategies with the primary and support departments assigned to implementation of each one.



Chapter 4. Neighborhoods

Goal: Create and maintain a variety of great neighborhoods.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Neighborhood P1: Encourage the appropriate mix of uses that will bring life and energy to neighborhoods while protecting them from encroachment by incompatible development.	Planning	
Neighborhood P2: Review new development for the mix of uses and form of development needed to establish lasting neighborhoods.	Planning	
Neighborhood P3: Continue positive working relationship with local schools to provide parks, meeting locations, and support for neighborhoods.	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity Parks and Recreation	
Neighborhoods S1: Utilize grants and other funding sources to target projects and programs that will implement the goal to create and maintain great neighborhoods. Cease use of federal CDBG grants when the only development they can be used to fund will create an over-concentration of conditional use permit services/residences in a neighborhood.	Housing & Community Development	Planning
Neighborhoods S2: Enhance the neighborhood outreach program to improve development of neighborhood leaders, educate neighborhood residents regarding property maintenance responsibilities, and provide a better forum for citizen engagement and communication with the City, with businesses and with each other.	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity	
Neighborhoods S3: Review and update design standards and guidelines.	Planning	Engineering, Transportation



Neighborhoods S4: Establish and maintain ongoing process for improving connections and walkability in existing neighborhoods by installing sidewalks where needed and improving the amount of shade and other amenities along sidewalks.	Transportation	Engineering, Planning
Neighborhoods S5: Investigate strategies and incentives to encourage appropriate infill consistent with neighborhood goals and values.	Planning	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity
Housing P1: Encourage a range of housing options in all areas of the City in order to allow people to stay in their neighborhood as their housing needs change.	Planning	Housing & Community Development
Housing S1: Update the City's Housing Master Plan.	Housing & Community Development	Planning
Redevelopment P1: All new developments will be evaluated for consistency with the character area form standards for their area and with criteria listed above for creating great neighborhoods.	Planning	
Redevelopment P2: Encourage and facilitate infill development that improves the quality of the neighborhood.	Planning	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity
Redevelopment S1: Develop tools and processes to assist property owners and developers with redevelopment and retrofitting of existing shopping centers into Village Neighborhood Centers.	Planning	Engineering
Redevelopment S2: Continue to implement a code compliance program that provides education on standards, actively monitors the conditions in neighborhoods, and works with neighborhood residents to maintain a high level of property maintenance, including where necessary swift enforcement and timely penalties for intentional disregard of the City's property maintenance ordinances.	Code Compliance	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity



Redevelopment S3: Continue to maintain and develop neighborhood plans as an extension of the General Plan.	Planning	Multiple Departments
Redevelopment S4: Establish and maintain programs designed to assist in the organization and maintenance of neighborhoods.	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity	
Historic Preservation P1: Continue to support the Historic Preservation Program as an important tool to help maintain Mesa neighborhoods and preserve our past.	Historic Preservation Office	
Historic Preservation P2: Create conservation districts in qualified areas of Mesa, to preserve historic features or amenities and to serve as a lead-in to historic district creation where appropriate.	Historic Preservation Office	
Historic Preservation S1: Foster better connections between residents and their neighborhoods by recording neighborhood histories and making them available for public perusal.	Historic Preservation Office	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity
Historic Preservation S2: Consistently and fairly administer the Historic Preservation Program to ensure compliance with standards in adopted historic districts.	Historic Preservation Office	
Historic Preservation S3: Conduct educational outreach efforts that inform residents in both existing districts and potential new districts about the importance of preserving Mesa's historic structures and neighborhoods as physical vestiges of the past.	Historic Preservation Office	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity

Chapter 5. Economic Development

Goal: Grow and maintain diverse and stable jobs.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Economic Development P1: Preserve designated commercial and industrial areas for future job growth. In the Economic Activity Areas, requests for changes from non-residential to residential will include review and comment by the Economic Development Office and could be referred to the Economic Development Board for recommendation.	Planning	Economic Development
Economic Development S1: Uphold a business service approach that facilitates the successful attraction, expansion, and retention of businesses in Mesa.	Economic Development	
Economic Development S2: Continue to develop the educational resources available in Mesa and work with education providers and industry leaders in an effort to provide skilled workers for Mesa businesses and to assist students in moving from the classroom to the workforce.	Economic Development	Mesa Counts on College
Economic Development S3: Create interesting and exciting neighborhoods and commercial, educational, and cultural amenities that attract and retain executives and professionals.	Planning	Economic Development
Economic Development S4: Continue to develop and enhance local regional, national, and international alliances and collaborations to advance Mesa's economic development strategy.	Economic Development	
Economic Development S5: Continue to develop and expand our comprehensive transportation, communication, and infrastructure systems to ensure efficient movement of commerce and information.	Engineering (CIP Administration)	Affected Departments



Chapter 6. Public Spaces

Goal: Provide rich, high-quality public spaces and cultural resources.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Public Spaces P1: The design and redesign of public buildings and facilities will include consideration of how to provide dynamic public spaces where appropriate.	Engineering	Planning
Public Spaces P2: Design of neighborhoods, neighborhood village centers, mixed use activity districts, downtown, and transit districts should consider and include the development of public gathering places appropriate for the scale and location of the development.	Planning	
Public Spaces S1: Co-locate community facilities such as libraries, parks, fire stations, museums, etc. where feasible to increase the opportunities for social interaction and reduce costs.	Engineering	Affected Departments
Parks and Recreation S1: Implement the Gold Medal 2025 Plan.	Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities	
Mesa Arts Center & Museums S1: Develop and implement a community cultural plan.	Arts & Culture	
Libraries P1: Library services will be expanded to ensure residents in all areas of the city are no more than 5 miles from a library.	Library	
Libraries S1: Update the 2002 Master Library Facilities Plan and implement the recommendations.	Library	



Chapter 7. Character Areas

Goal: Foster a development pattern that creates and maintains a variety of great neighborhoods, grows a diverse and stable economy, and develops rich public spaces.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Character Areas P1: In areas with a Neighborhoods character, development will be reviewed for the impact on improving or maintaining the existing neighborhood and achieving the development and design standards for neighborhoods set forth in Chapter 4, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity
Character Areas P2: In areas with the Neighborhood Village Center character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to: (i) provide needed services to the surrounding neighborhoods, (ii) increase connections with the surrounding neighborhoods, (iii) maintain the health and viability of the surrounding neighborhood, provide a greater sense of place and identity to the center and surrounding neighborhood, and (iv) improve the viability of businesses within the center, and will also be reviewed for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	Neighborhood Outreach/ Diversity
Character Areas P3: In the Downtown character area, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to continue to improve the mix and intensity of development consistent with the Central Main Street Plan or any subsequent plans for this area.	Planning	



Character Areas P4: In areas with the Mixed Use Activity District, character development will be reviewed for the opportunity to enhance the vitality of these districts by providing the right mix of uses to meet community and regional needs, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	
Character Areas P5: In areas with the Mixed Use Community character, development will be reviewed for conformance with any approved community plan or infill incentive plan for the area.	Planning	
Character Areas P6: In areas with the Employment District character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to maintain and enhance employment options within the City of Mesa; areas with this character type are important to the long term vitality of the community and need to be protected from incompatible development types. Review shall also consider compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	
Character Areas P7: In areas with the Specialty District character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to maintain and enhance the nature of the particular special district, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	
Character Areas P8: In areas with the Transit District character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to further enhance the development and functioning of transit services by increasing the level of activity, mix of uses, and pedestrian environment within the District, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	



Character Areas P4: In areas with the Mixed Use Activity District, character development will be reviewed for the opportunity to enhance the vitality of these districts by providing the right mix of uses to meet community and regional needs, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	
Character Areas P5: In areas with the Mixed Use Community character, development will be reviewed for conformance with any approved community plan or infill incentive plan for the area.	Planning	
Character Areas P6: In areas with the Employment District character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to maintain and enhance employment options within the City of Mesa; areas with this character type are important to the long term vitality of the community and need to be protected from incompatible development types. Review shall also consider compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	
Character Areas P7: In areas with the Specialty District character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to maintain and enhance the nature of the particular special district, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	
Character Areas P8: In areas with the Transit District character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to further enhance the development and functioning of transit services by increasing the level of activity, mix of uses, and pedestrian environment within the District, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	



Character Areas P9: In areas with the Parks and Open Space character, development will be reviewed for the opportunity to further enhance the nature of the area and provide high-quality locations for public use and benefit, and for compliance with any approved sub-area or neighborhood plan for the specific area.	Planning	
Character Areas P10: This Plan continues to allow and provide for the broad range of land uses that exist within the community; however, the built form will transition over time to achieve the goals of creating a more recognizable city, improving air quality, and ensuring access to solar energy.	Planning	
Character Areas P11: Primary zoning districts and primary land uses will be mainly utilized to establish the character type and areas. Where appropriate, secondary zoning districts and land uses may be used as ancillary to contribute to a mixture of land uses to add to the vibrancy of an area.	Planning	
Land Use P1: Develop a land use pattern throughout the City that helps create and maintain diverse neighborhoods, maintains locations for employment uses, provides for dynamic and inviting locations for shopping and recreation, achieves compatibility with surrounding communities, and is consistent with other plans and programs of the City.	Planning	
Land Use P2: Support the diverse and dynamic sub-areas within the city by utilizing land use controls to help maintain their unique character or history.	Planning	
Land Use S1: Update and adjust land use tools as necessary to respond to changing community needs and implement the General Plan.	Planning	
Land Use P3: The City shall work with Falcon Field and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airports to coordinate planning and to address airspace protection and land use compatibility.	Planning, Falcon Field, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway	Engineering, Transportation, Economic Development



Growth Area S1: As part of the annual update to the Capital Improvement Plan, review the needs of the designated growth areas for infrastructure improvements needed to provide for anticipated growth.	Engineering	Planning
Growth Area S2: Develop guidelines and ordinance provisions to provide a mechanism for allowing temporary uses in the Mesa Gateway area.	Planning	

Chapter 8. Energy

Goal: Electric and natural gas utility customers are provided very safe, reliable and efficient energy utility services by the City of Mesa in order to help create and maintain great neighborhoods, grow and maintain diverse and stable jobs, and provide rich, high-quality public spaces and cultural amenities.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Energy Resources P1: Plan and acquire a least-total- cost electric resource portfolio to reliably and efficiently meet customers' current and projected electric energy requirements.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources P2: Human, physical and financial resources will be prioritized to enhance the safety, reliability and efficiency of Mesa's electric utility services.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources P3: Opportunities to enhance the aesthetics impacts of facilities and infrastructure will be identified and implemented where technically and economically feasible.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources P4: Opportunities to elevate the stewardship of the environment will be identified and implemented where technically and economically feasible, such as investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and reduction in emissions.	Energy Resources	



Energy Resources S1: An Integrated Resources Planning (IRP) process will be used to identify the optimal mix of energy efficiency, energy conservation and electric generation resource options to meet customers' electric energy requirements.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources S2: A System Master Planning process will be used to forecast the electric infrastructure and equipment needed to meet the estimated electric utility service requirements of utility customers.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources P5: Natural gas supplies will be planned for and acquired in an effective and timely manner to ensure customers' current and projected natural gas supply requirements are reliably and efficiently met.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources P6: Human, physical and financial resources will be prioritized to enhance the safety, reliability and efficiency of Mesa's natural gas utility services.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources P7: Opportunities to elevate Mesa's stewardship of the environment through the expanded use of natural gas will be identified and implemented where technically and economically feasible.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources S3: Competitive solicitations will be used to acquire all supplies of natural gas and, when feasible, opportunities to acquire "Tax Exempt Pre-Paid" supplies should be pursued.	Energy Resources	
Energy Resources S4: A System Master Planning process will be used to forecast the natural gas infrastructure and equipment needed to meet the estimated natural gas utility service requirements of customers.	Energy Resources	



Chapter 9. Environmental Planning and Conservation

Goal: The City of Mesa will be a steward of the environment that promotes sustainable land use and economic development, the use of renewable resources and resource conservation. Thoughtful environmental planning and resource conservation will ensure that Mesa residents are provided with a clean, safe, and environmentally-sound community, which supports the maintenance of neighborhoods, development of businesses, and enjoyment of public spaces and cultural resources well into the future.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Environment and Conservation P1: Take a leadership role and join forces with other local, state, and regional agencies to identify and implement effective measures to ensure environmental quality and efficient use of resources.	Environmental & Sustainability	
Environment and Conservation P2: Support engagement of residents and businesses regarding air and water quality, water and energy efficiency, and development practices that will benefit future generations.	Environmental & Sustainability	
Environment and Conservation P3: The City of Mesa will continue to be innovative in City operations and services to be environmentally and fiscally beneficial for existing and future residents and businesses	Environmental & Sustainability	
Environment and Conservation S1: Explore and develop design standards, regulations, policy directives that promote land use patterns, building design, and transportation infrastructure that create clean and healthy neighborhood environments and maximizes resource efficiency.	Environmental & Sustainability	
Environment and Conservation S2: The City of Mesa will engage the community through print, multimedia, social networking, personal interaction, and demonstration projects, while exploring new and innovative methods of educational outreach, evaluation, and assistance.	Environmental & Sustainability	



Environment and Conservation S3: The City of Mesa will actively administer the implementation of current land use and environmental quality regulations to protect air and water quality, and explore new and innovative guidelines, codes, and ordinances to ensure a clean, healthy, and livable environment in the future.	Environmental & Sustainability	
Regulatory Framework P1: Continual evaluation of model Codes, such as the International Energy Conservation Code for City adoption.	Environmental & Sustainability	
Regulatory Framework S1: Review and consideration of adoption of new regulatory framework for energy conservation, such as the International Energy Conservation Code.	Environmental & Sustainability	
Policies and Strategies Education and Outreach P1: The City of Mesa will continually explore new education and outreach opportunities that advance understanding, acceptance, and adoption of air and water quality protection efforts, water and energy conservation measures, and renewable energy generation by residents and businesses.	Environmental & Sustainability	
Education and Outreach P2: The City of Mesa will provide value through a commitment to informed land use and policy decisions made in an equitable fashion in order to protect residents and businesses, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, from the health effects of air and water pollution, provide access to energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy generators.	Environmental & Sustainability	



Education and Outreach S1: Education and communication are powerful tools for fostering sustainable innovation and change. A progressive education and outreach program will help employees and residents understand their role in sustainability along with providing positive encouragement for their efforts.	Environmental & Sustainability	
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Chapter 10. Public Facilities

Goal: Provide the public facilities needed to help create and maintain a variety of great neighborhoods, grow and maintain diverse and stable jobs, and provide rich, high-quality public spaces and cultural resources.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Public Facilities P1: To the degree possible, the location and design of public facilities will integrate into and help support the creation and maintenance of neighborhoods, support the expansion of stable and diverse jobs, and create opportunities for dynamic public spaces.	Engineering	Planning, Affected Departments
Public Facilities P2: Provide public/municipal buildings, facilities, and services that offer maximum usefulness and affordability to the residents and businesses of Mesa.	Engineering	Affected Departments
Public Facilities P3: Provide public facilities and services that will serve existing residents and businesses and encourage future residents and businesses to locate in Mesa.	All Departments	
Law Enforcement P1: Ensure that law enforcement resources (including training, continuing education, appropriate staffing levels, facilities, and equipment) are provided to serve the City's projected population growth.	Police	



Mesa 2040 General Plan

Recognizable Neighborhoods – Innovative Jobs – Memorable Public Spaces

Law Enforcement S1: Develop and implement programs, partnerships, and volunteer opportunities that help develop strong neighborhoods, promote business development, and uphold the mission of the Mesa Police Department.	Police	Neighborhood Outreach/Diversity
Fire Protection P1: Ensure that all aspects of rescue, emergency medical services, fire prevention and suppression, and the control of hazardous situations are delivered through quality emergency services and proactive emphasis on public education, code enforcement, hazard investigation, innovative fire and life safety awareness, and community service.	Fire & Medical	
Health Care P1: Support the development and maintenance of high quality health care services for Mesa residents, businesses and visitors.	Planning	Economic Development
Education P1: Support the school districts located within the boundaries of the City of Mesa in their efforts to provide excellent schools and educational opportunities.	Planning	Public School Districts
Stormwater P1: Continue to implement the City's Storm Drain Master Plan and update as needed.	Solid Waste	
Education P2: Coordinate with the placement and development of school sites to ensure schools are safe and accessible to students.	Planning	
Solid Waste S1: Explore efforts to maintain a clean and sustainable environment by partnering with an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility and increasing our landfill diversion efforts to near-zero waste principles.	Solid Waste	
Solid Waste S2: Work with adjacent communities to form regional partnerships to combine resource planning with service providers to move trash and recycle materials.	Solid Waste	



Chapter 11. Public Safety

Goal: Provide for a safe environment that supports the creation and maintenance of great neighborhoods, facilitates the growth of a diverse and stable job base, and allow enjoyment of rich and high-quality public spaces and amenities.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Public Safety P1: Dedicate the resources necessary to ensure, to the degree possible, a safe city with appropriate response times to emergencies.	Fire & Medical	Police
Public Safety P2: Work with neighborhoods and community groups to address changing community needs to with issues of public safety.	Neighborhood Outreach/Diversity	Police, Fire & Medical
Public Safety P3: Develop and maintain the resources, communication capabilities, evacuation routes, etc. necessary to respond to large scale emergencies or disasters when they occur.	Fire & Medical	Police, Communications
Public Safety S1: Develop and maintain an Emergency Operation Plan in accordance with Arizona state law, develop and maintain the resources necessary to carry out the EOP, and provide regular training to staff in emergency operations. This strategy includes the coordination necessary with surrounding jurisdictions as well as county, state, and federal agencies.	Fire & Medical	Police, Communications
Public Safety S2: Recognize and protect floodplain areas as identified by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and implement their recommendations wherever possible.	Engineering	
Public Safety S3: In response to a changing development form and population demographic, have the Crime Prevention staff involved in the review of development projects.	Police	Planning



Public Safety S4: Protect citizens from the potential hazards created by close proximity to airports and protect the airports from encroachment from incompatible uses. This strategy include implementing the Airport Overlay Area requirements to include notification to property owners of their proximity to an airport, recording avigation easements, increased noise attenuation in building construction, etc. in the areas of Falcon Field and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airports.	Planning, Falcon Field, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway	
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Chapter 12. Transportation

Transportation Goal 1: Develop a safe and efficient transportation system that provides access to all public places by multiple modes of travel and by various users.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Objective 1 – Build the future transportation network to fill gaps and address needs as outlined in this plan while coordinating with adjacent communities and regional agencies.	Transportation	Engineering
Objective 2 – In addition to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), provide facilities that allow all users, including disabled, children and elderly, to access community places with ease and comfort.	Transportation	Engineering
Objective 3 – Develop a set of comprehensive design standards and guidelines that promote vibrant and interesting streets and public places using best national and international practices.	Transportation	Engineering, Planning
Objective 4 - Allow access and easy integration between all modes of transportation at activity centers.	Transportation	Transit
Objective 5 - Develop a comprehensive pedestrian plan that provides a network of pedestrian paths and sidewalks with access to all major destinations and transportation facilities.	Transportation	Planning



Objective 6 – Continue developing bicycle facilities and programs as recommended in the City of Mesa Bicycle Master plan.	Transportation	Engineering
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Transportation Goal 2: Develop inviting streets that identify with the context of the surrounding neighborhood and help to create a sense of community and vibrant public space.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Objective 1 – Promote streets that are inviting and comfortable for people to gather and interact within.	Transportation	Engineering, Planning
Objective 2 – Make walking safe, convenient and enjoyable while encouraging social interaction in public places.	Transportation	Planning
Objective 3 – Seek opportunities to apply complete streets principles to new and existing areas.	Transportation	Planning
Objective 4 – Use specific urban design elements and principles for Special Character and Planning areas as defined in this plan and the City of Mesa General Plan update.	Transportation	Engineering, Planning
Objective 5 – Use the square mile neighborhood as the fundamental building block for the transportation system.	Transportation	Planning
Objective 6 – Make downtown Mesa the most special of all the square mile neighborhoods.	Transportation Planning	

Transportation Goal 3: Develop a transportation network concentrated around activity centers that encourages dense, diverse public places and foster economic growth.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Objective 1 – Develop a methodology to locate and prioritize activity centers, such as near freeways, schools, and large job providers.	Transportation, Planning	



Objective 2 – Connect activity centers to mixed-use and high-density land-use areas.	Transportation, Planning	Engineering
Objective 3 – Build the future transportation network to fill gaps between activity centers and square mile neighborhoods.	Transportation	Engineering
Objective 4 – Connect all modes to each activity center throughout the transportation network.	Transportation	Planning
Objective 5 – Each square mile neighborhood should be able to connect to an activity center by multiple modes of transportation.	Transportation	Planning
Objective 6 – Coordinate public right-of-way and private land to create places where people want to congregate and spend time socializing.	Transportation	Engineering, Planning

Transit Goal 1: Develop an activity center-based transit system that is based on transit priority corridors in the City of Mesa.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Transit P1: Connect activity centers using transit.	Transit	
Transit P2: Identify transit priority corridors.	Transit	Transportation, Planning
Transit P3: Emphasize transit service frequency over coverage.	Transit	
Transit P4: Develop transit service to match character areas.	Transit	Planning
Transit P5: Ensure compatibility with the regional transit system.	Transit	
Transit P6: Integrate transit into the multi-modal transportation network.	Transit, Transportation	
Transit P7: Create a transit system that is sustainable over the long term.	Transit	
Transit S1: Review planned and programmed transit improvements	Transit	



Transit S2: Identify key outcomes from community outreach to guide the development of transit alternatives.	Transit	
Transit S3: Identify transit priority corridors that serve activity centers.	Transit	Planning
Transit S4: Develop short, mid- and long-term transit plans including recommendations for implementation of transit service options.	Transit	
Transit S5: Identify implementation strategies based on potential costs and funding availability.	Transit	

Chapter 13. Water Resources

Goal: Maintain a water resources program that ensures an adequate, reliable supply of water delivered efficiently to customers to help create and maintain great neighborhoods, grow and maintain diverse and stable jobs, and provide rich, high-quality public spaces and cultural amenities.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Water Resources P1: Develop and maintain the physical and legal availability of sufficient supply sources to meet water demands.	Water Resources	
Water Resources P2: Develop and maintain a diverse portfolio of water supplies that can meet current, committed, and future demands through prolonged drought conditions.	Water Resources	
Water Resources P3: Maximize renewable water supply development for use and reuse for the benefit of Mesa's residents, businesses, and industries.	Water Resources	
Water Resources P4: Ensure lost and unaccounted for water is reduced to the lowest possible amount and exceed regulatory requirements.	Water Resources	
Water Resources S1: Meet and exceed the federal, state, and local regulatory water quality requirements.	Water Resources	
Water Resources S2: Provide education and incentives to encourage water conservation.	Water Resources	Environmental & Sustainability



Chapter 14. Financing a Maturing City

Goal: Provide funding for excellent public services and infrastructure in support of new and existing neighborhoods, business and industry, and public spaces and cultural resources in a manner that sustains the City's financial health.

Policy/Strategy	Responsibility	
	Primary	Secondary
Finance P1: Maintain a broad-based financing structure that ensures the City has the resources available to provide the infrastructure and services needed to help Mesa evolve into a complete, recognizable City.	Office of Management and Budget	
Finance S1: Annually evaluate in a comprehensive manner the cost of providing public services in the City of Mesa.	Office of Management and Budget	
Finance S2: Periodically evaluate and update existing funding mechanisms to consider the cost of providing public services to new development.	Office of Management and Budget	
Finance S3: Integrate public service requirements due to new development into the annual City Budget Plan and Capital Improvement Program.	Office of Management and Budget	
Finance S4: Periodically prioritize and integrate selected public service improvements to existing development into the annual City Budget Plan and Capital Improvement Program.	Office of Management and Budget	
Finance S5: Periodically undertake comprehensive studies to evaluate the efficiency and legality of existing and potential funding mechanisms for the provision of public services to new and existing development.	Office of Management and Budget	



Review and Updating

As required by state statute, there shall be an annual review of the efforts to implement the Plan. This review shall be provided to the City Council.

In addition to the annual review, every three years there shall be a comprehensive review of the policies and strategies provided in the Plan. Modifications to the stated policies and strategies shall be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board for review and recommendation. The recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board shall be forwarded to the City Council in the form of a minor plan amendment to update the Plan document.

D. Plan Amendments

Text Amendments

Text amendments to the Plan may be initiated only by the City under direction from the City Manager, the Planning and Zoning Board, or the Mayor and City Council. Text amendments shall be considered minor amendments. These will include the periodic updating of policies and strategies and the addition of updated or new sub-area or neighborhood plans.

Character Area Map Amendments

For a development to be considered consistent with the adopted Plan, the resulting development must be consistent with the character area and sub-type designation for the area. This includes consistency with the development form and standards and the allowed zoning districts.

The development must also conform to the goals of the Plan, such as contributing to the City's vision for high-quality development that is attractive and consists of durable materials, providing attractive architectural designs, site planning that integrates with the surrounding neighborhoods, and creates and maintains a variety of great neighborhoods, public spaces, and employment areas.

If the City Council approves a rezoning request for a proposed development, then the City Council has determined the rezoning is consistent with and conforms to the General Plan and no character area map amendment (major or minor), separate determination or other action is required.

A development proposal that is not consistent with the character designated for the area (such as sub-type designation, development forms and standards or zoning districts) requires either a major or minor character area map amendment as follows:

Major Amendments

Downtown and Transit Districts Character Areas:

- A development proposal that contains 10 acres or more that is not consistent with the planned character area.

All Other Character Areas:

- A development proposal that contains 160 acres or more that is not consistent with the planned character area.



Minor Amendments

All other character area map amendments are minor.

Amendment Approval Criteria

In determining whether to approve a proposed major or minor character area nmap amendment, the City Council may consider the following factors:

1. Whether the proposed amendment to the General Plan character area will result in a shortage of land for other planned uses. For example, whether the change will result in a substantial and undesirable reduction in the amount of available land for employment or higher density housing development.
2. Whether events subsequent to the adoption of the Plan have changed the character or condition of the area making the proposed amendment appropriate.
3. The degree to which the proposed amendment will impact the whole community or a portion of the community by:
 - a. Altering acceptable existing land use patterns in a significant way that is contrary to the goals, policies, and strategies identified in the Plan.
 - b. Requiring larger or more extensive improvements to roads, sewer, or water systems than are necessary to support the prevailing land uses which may negatively impact development of other lands.
 - c. Adversely impacting existing uses due to increased traffic congestion that is not accommodated by planned roadway improvements or other planned transportation improvements such as non-motorized transportation alternatives and transit.
4. Consistency of the proposed amendment with the vision, goals, policies, and strategies of the Plan.
5. Does the proposed amendment constitute an overall improvement to the General Plan and the City of Mesa.
6. The extent to which the benefits of the proposed amendment outweigh any of the impacts identified in this subsection.