

City of Wasilla Comprehensive Plan

Open House No. 1 Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 12, 2025 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Wasilla Public Library, Multipurpose Room

500 N Crusey St, Wasilla, AK 99654

Meeting Summary

The City of Wasilla, assisted by DOWL, hosted the first public open house for the Wasilla Comprehensive Plan (Plan) update on Thursday, June 12, 2025, in the Wasilla Public Library Multipurpose Room. Attendees began arriving for the event at 5:00 p.m. The meeting format was workshop style, with a live presentation to welcome attendees and introduce the project and prompt boards inviting attendees to submit ideas about Wasilla and the Plan. A map of Wasilla was also presented, on which attendees could provide comments for the Plan. Attendees signed in and received an informational fact sheet. This event provided a platform for public engagement and feedback on the plan's development.

The open house drew a diverse group of approximately 17 attendees. This included project team members, members of the public, and community officials.

Question and Comments Summary

The following comments summary is organized by the meeting boards questions/focus prompts. The summary is based on discussions with project team members and comments noted on meeting boards.

Map of Wasilla – What do you do in Wasilla?

- Safe, accessible recreation near Anchorage
- Walking paths
- Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center
- Local restaurants and shopping
- Lake access and recreation
- Wasilla Public Library
- Playgrounds and parks

Values and Visions – What do you love about Wasilla?

- Proximity to Anchorage
- Services easily accessible on the Parks Highway
- Accessibility to small businesses
- Beautification and landscaping

- Mountain views and recreation access
- Slower pace of life
- Small town feel
- Traditional values
- Ease of starting and owning a business
- Friendly people
- Favorable tax structure

Plan Elements – Share your Visions for specific plan elements

- Transportation
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible transportation
 - Public transportation to Anchorage, including the railroad
 - Improved traffic flow and safety
 - Lower speed limits on the Parks Highway
 - Use progression traffic signal timing on the Parks Highway
 - Consider one-way streets downtown
 - Improve street maintenance
- Economy and Community Assets
 - Serve workers commuting to Anchorage
 - Encourage small businesses
 - More restaurants and activities in town, especially live music venues
 - Employment and training hub
- Land Use
 - Simplification of rules and policies
 - Beautification
 - Remove illegally dumped trash and homeless encampments
 - Protect local values
- Downtown
 - Clearer downtown boundaries/definition
 - Support small businesses
 - More flexible zoning and policies
 - Improved walkability
 - End the Downtown Overlay Design Standards
 - Improve zoning
 - Enact strict zoning regulations to create a Bavarian-themed town through architecture

Big Ideas and Bold Moves – What would radically improve your community?

- More activities and attractions (museums, indoor recreation, etc.)
- Beautification efforts
- Welcome large employers
- Move large grocery stores (Fred Meyer and Carrs)
- Redesign transportation, roadways, public transportation
 - Build the bypass

- Build an expressway of the Parks Highway from Seward Meridian to Church Road
- Improve transportation and traffic flow within the City
- Build an overpass for through traffic in Knik-Goose Bay Road and Main Street over the Parks Highway

Opportunities and Challenges – What challenges does Wasilla face?

- Traffic
- Utilities (water, sewer, etc.)
- Sufficient infrastructure to allow growth
- Beautification
- Community support services
- Transitional, aging, and commuter community
- Bring more jobs to Wasilla
- Improve tourism and visitor services

Long-Term Goals – What are your top three long term goals for your community?

- More attractions, community events, and activities year-round for families and people of all ages
- Improved transportation, airport, and roadway infrastructure
- Simplified, consistent regulations and policies
- Beautification
- Affordable housing

Community Assessment – How do you want to see Wasilla grow? What do you want to stay the same?

- *Growth*
 - More walking and biking paths
 - Walkable downtown
 - Improved employment and training opportunities
 - Beautification
 - Public transportation
 - Funding maintenance
 - Community services
 - Improved educational standards
 - Affordable housing
 - Cultural activities
- *Remain the Same*
 - Small town
 - Small businesses
 - Rural accessibility
 - Vibrant library

Public and Agency Notice

Project stakeholders were notified of the open house via the following methods:

- Newspaper advertisements in the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman
- Email notification to the City of Wasilla Planning Department
- Email notification to Wasilla Chamber and Sunrise Rotary members
- Planning Commission Meeting announcement
- Project website announcement