

Council OKs Tyler 21 Goals

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The first phase of the Tyler 21 project is finished, but there's more work ahead.

The Tyler City Council signed off Wednesday on the plan's vision and goals, setting the stage for the next wave of activities.

"After months of public input, we're ready to conclude the first phase of the Tyler 21 Plan," said Mark McDaniel, deputy city manager. "Now we get down to the detailed planning. The plan should be finished by April 2007, followed by development and re-write of our zoning ordinances."

The primary purpose behind the city's new \$615,000 planning effort is to guide orderly growth, provide predictability for development and avoid unnecessary

spending, city leaders said.

The completed comprehensive plan will focus on the following areas: traffic congestion, north end revitalization; downtown development; historic preservation; parks, open space and lakes; housing, neighborhoods and quality of life; and public facilities and infrastructure.

The newly adopted vision references the city's "commitment to community, robust business environment and beauty of its public places."

Historic heritage, city identity, personal values, strong economy and professional city government are also cited in the outline for growth.

Guiding principles outlined in the plan include these items: Connect people to one another and the community; promote balanced growth; provide attractive

neighborhoods; protect and enhance open spaces and the environment; provide transportation options; reinvigorate downtown areas; preserve and enhance the historic heritage; cultivate a friendly environment for business, medical and educational institutions; maintain excellent municipal services and facilities; and maintain and enhance a strong community and regional partnerships.

Prior to adoption, a wording change was made to clarify the city's position on growth — the original statement indicated that the city was to promote development to the east, west and north, but made no mention of the south.

"We want to promote growth and development in downtown and in every

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section of the city," said Mayor Joey Seeber. "I would not want there to be any misunderstanding and think we don't want growth in south Tyler. We want it to grow."

The business corridor is vital to maintaining the city's financial vitality, he said.

Councilman Chris Simons agreed.

"We have not enacted a moratorium on growth in South Tyler," Simons said.

Mayor Pro Tem Steve Smith said, "We have listened to the citizens and what they had to say."

In a separate but related agenda item addressed Wednesday, the council voiced informal support for smart signal technology — which is computerized to adjust to

changing traffic patterns — at key South Broadway intersections.

The Tyler 21 traffic congestion mitigation committee, charged with finding quick relief until long-term solutions are realized, is recommending the upgrades.

The \$750,000 expenditure is included in the city's proposed 2006-07 fiscal budget, scheduled for adoption next month.

Goals adopted Wednesday will be included in the final Tyler 21 Comprehensive Plan.

Specific components of those goals will be broken down into short, middle and long-range development plans.

The City Council will be ultimately responsible for implementing the plan, the mayor said.

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