

Part I

Setting the Stage

Chapter 1 Vision and Principles

Chapter 2 The Community Speaks

Chapter 3 Understanding Birmingham Today

SUMMARY THEMES

Where do we want to go? A 21st-Century Vision for the City of Birmingham's future

A 20-year Vision for the city's future and a set of principles will guide the planning process and the implementation of the plan. The Vision for Birmingham as a community of choice and opportunity revolves around five statements for the future:

- People choose the City of Birmingham as a place to live.
- Birmingham has a connected network of walkable urban places.
- Birmingham is innovative and prosperous, with a diversified and sustainable economy.
- Birmingham is the most sustainable, "greenest" city in the South.
- Birmingham's success is built on local and regional partnerships.

How did the planning process ensure that the plan reflects the aspirations, needs and desires of people who live, work, study and own businesses in the city?

The public participation process for the comprehensive plan engaged over two thousand people in developing the vision and principles, discussing needs and improvements in the communities where they live or work, focusing on specific topics like transportation or neighborhood revitalization, and giving feedback as the plan developed.

What's the starting point? In 2011–2012, what are the city's assets and challenges, and how are conditions trending if we don't make changes?

The baseline conditions in the City of Birmingham—in the region and the world at the time this comprehensive plan was written—serve as the launchpad for this plan: population and land use trends, environmental conditions and constraints, housing and neighborhood conditions, jobs and economic trends, transportation, and the city's facilities and services.