



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force

Overview & Recommendations

October 6th, 2010

What is Smart Planning in Iowa?

- Passed during the 2010 legislative session, Senate File 2389 established ten smart planning principles.
- The bill states state agencies and local governments shall consider and may apply these principles when making planning, zoning, & development decisions.



Smart Planning Principles

1. Collaboration
2. Efficiency & transparency
3. Energy
4. Occupational diversity
5. Revitalization
6. Housing diversity
7. Community character
8. Natural resource & agricultural protection
9. Sustainable design
10. Transportation diversity



Smart Planning Principles

- Smart planning principles are to be considered when preparing local comprehensive plans.
- How local governments consider and address each of these principles will vary from community to community.
- Planning should encourage goals and activities consistent with these principles.



Benefits to Smart Planning – Why Plan?

- **Helps achieve strategic goals**
 - Manage the type, location, amount & sequence of development
 - Manage the impacts of growth (environmental, social & fiscal)
- **Creates a process**
 - Opens up public dialogue
 - Develops a collective vision for the community
- **Creates a product**
 - Written goals, policies and strategies to achieve community vision



Benefits to Smart Planning – Why Plan?

- **Informs the public of expectations regarding development**
- **Establishes guidelines for decision making**
 - Elected officials
 - Boards & commissions
 - Citizen & neighborhood organizations
 - Developers/realtors



What is the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force?

- Senate File 2389 also established the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force.
- Task force is charged with making recommendations to the Governor & Legislature regarding planning efforts in Iowa
- Task force is to look at state, regional, and local planning efforts



Specific duties of the Task Force

- Solicit input from the public on comprehensive planning
- Evaluate state programs, policies and statutes for inclusion of smart planning principles
- Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning & a process for measuring progress towards such goals
- Evaluate and develop incentives to encourage local and regional planning



Specific duties of the Task Force

- Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning in Iowa
- Review local comprehensive plans to determine the number of plans which address natural disaster mitigation
- Consult various experts and local governments for relevant information



Specific duties of the Task Force

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force is charged with developing recommendations for the State that:

1. Encourage cooperation between all levels of government
2. Coordinates geographic information system (GIS) information
3. Allow production & sharing of demographic information that can be used in planning



Specific duties of the Task Force

4. Establish a central electronic storage system for comprehensive plans
5. Provide financial & technical assistance for state & local planning
6. Provide information to local governments on comprehensive planning resources



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Leadership

Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Co-Chairs:

Nancy Richardson, Director, Iowa DOT

Ruth Randleman, Mayor, City of Carlisle



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Membership

The task force contains 33 members and includes:

- 29 voting members
- 4 ex-officio members
- Representatives from 14 state agencies
- 6 Governor-appointed members



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Membership

Other organizations with representatives on the task force include:

- Iowa League of Cities
- Iowa State Association of Counties
- Iowa Association of Regional Councils
- Iowa's regents institutions
- American Institute of Architects- Iowa chapter
- American Planning Association- Iowa chapter
- School Administrators of Iowa



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force

- Task force duties were divided between two committees.
- Committee 1- Intergovernmental Coordination & Information Sharing Committee
- Committee 2- Comprehensive Planning Committee



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force

- Each committee was lead by two co-chairs
- Each of the two committees formed two workgroups. Each workgroup was led by a committee co-chair.
- While task force membership is established in the legislation, workgroup membership has been open to anyone wishing to participate.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Leadership

- **Intergovernmental Coordination & Information Sharing Committee Co-Chairs:**
Emily Shields, RIO
Don Temeyer, Howard R. Green
- **Comprehensive Planning Committee Co-Chairs:**
Les Beck, Linn Co. Planning & Development
Rick Hunsaker, Region XII COG



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Meetings

- Full task force has met monthly since June 2010
- Each committee and its workgroups have met 2 to 3 times per month since July 2010.
- Various experts have presented at meetings or have provided information for review at these meetings.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

1. Establish a framework to coordinate planning, geographic information and data systems, and state level investment.

1.1 Establish the GIS & Data Systems and Planning Coordination Councils and the state Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

1.2 Integrate smart planning principles into the State's Enterprise Strategic Planning Process.

1.3 Iowa's Councils of Governments (COGs) should serve as the geographic entity for regional smart plans.

1.4 A planning advisory committee for each region should be established by the COGs for local smart plan review.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

1.5 A council of governments (COG) or COGs should be established in central Iowa for the seven counties not currently served or served in part by June 30, 2015.

1.6 Identify “State of Iowa Planning Goals and Benchmarks” as statewide goals for the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

2. *Require completion of regional comprehensive smart plans within 5 years after legislation is enacted.*
 - Iowa's COGs would complete regional smart plans.
 - Regional plans would be advisory and would provide guidance to communities as they prepare local comprehensive plans.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

3. Create financial incentives and offer technical assistance to incent smart planning at both the regional and local levels.

3.1 Create a sustainable funding source for regional smart planning conducted by COGs.

3.2 Create a sustainable funding source for a smart planning program at the state level to assist with local smart plan development and implementation.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

- 3.3 Expand the menu of financing options available to local governments to develop and implement smart plans
- 3.4 Provide training and technical assistance to state agencies to facilitate integration of the smart planning principles into state investment decision making processes, particularly grant programs.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

3.5 State agencies should set a threshold or give additional consideration for having a qualified smart plan to receive state funding for infrastructure and public facilities projects that affect land use, transportation, stormwater management, and floodplain protection, where appropriate.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

- 3.6 Create a smart planning education program for local government staff, officials, and the public.
- 3.7 Develop a smart planning toolbox to be housed at the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems that will serve as a one-stop shop for smart planning information and resources.
- 3.8 Develop an accessible statewide GIS and data management system.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

4. Develop a watershed planning & coordination program, including goals and strategies referencing land use for each of Iowa's nine major river basins.

- The Iowa DNR, in conjunction with other agencies, should establish a watershed coordination program.
- Program should establish goals and strategies for the basins
- Program should provide resources to assist with incorporating watershed strategies into comprehensive plans



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Recommendations

5. Make the definition of “comprehensive plan” uniform throughout Iowa Code.

- Chapter 403 of the Iowa Code uses the term “general plan” rather than “comprehensive plan.”
- Chapters 403, 354 and 368 should be amended to define “comprehensive plan” as it is defined in Senate File 2389.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force- Public Input

Public comments are requested by **October 10**, and may be provided through:

- Public input sessions
- Letter to the Rebuild Iowa Office
- Webinar
- Feedback via the Iowa Smart Planning website found at:

<http://www.rio.iowa.gov>



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force- Post Public Input

- Task force will review public comments and may revise draft recommendations, based on those comments
- Task force will meet on October 20th and November 10th to finalize recommendations.
- Meeting information, draft recommendations, and task force related materials can be found at the Iowa Smart Planning website.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force- Final Report

The task force must submit its final report & recommendations to the Governor & Legislature by November 15, 2010.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Survey Instrument

- The survey is available on the Smart Planning website, previously referenced.
- The survey asks for input regarding each recommendation and allows for general comments.
- We would encourage all of you to complete & submit a survey.



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force- Additional comments/ questions

Additional comments or questions on the draft recommendations may be directed to:

Rebuild Iowa Office

Attn: Aaron Todd

502 E 9th St, 2nd Floor

Des Moines, IA 50319

Email: Aaron.Todd@rio.iowa.gov

Fax: 515.242.5006



**Thank you for your interest and
assistance!**

We value your input and suggestions
during this process.

We welcome any questions or
comments you may have.

