

Grace Hallowell:

What's up College Station? I'm Grace Hallowell, and today I'm joined by David Brower, our community development analyst from our community services department. Hi David.

David Brower:

Hi, Grace. How are you?

Grace Hallowell:

I'm doing well. We had you on the show a few months ago to talk about the housing action plan, and we are here today to talk about an update on that project because it's been going on for some time now and we have some new information.

David Brower:

That's right. So we've been busy.

Grace Hallowell:

Very busy.

David Brower:

Viewers will probably remember we had an existing conditions report that was done, our housing action plan committee. Pretty amazing, 13 volunteers that council appointed that are working to come up with this plan that we have a draft form of now. But they've been working, we've done several surveys. And so where we are now is we have a draft plan.

Grace Hallowell:

Woo-hoo.

David Brower:

So we came and got everybody's feedback on what are the issues, what's going on, what's needed. And now we have a draft plan for... We have goals, strategies, and actions that we're proposing. And so that is going to be up on our webpage for people to look at. We're going to have a survey for people to respond, and then a couple of public meetings to get further feedback, give more information, but further feedback on that.

Grace Hallowell:

Yes. And that is one of the most important aspects of this project, is we want to hear from residents on what they want included in this plan because it's for everybody who lives here. It's for their benefit.

David Brower:

That's right. And so these actions, we came up with two main goals, make more housing and more housing types is the first goal. And then there's several strategies and actions under that. So really excited for people to go look and see what those are. And then the second goal is to make housing that is affordable at or below certain price ranges to people at or below certain incomes. And so we've got several, again, strategies and actions. There, we'd love feedback, taking everyone's feedback and looking at existing conditions. Staff along with this pretty amazing steering committee has come up with these goals, strategies, and actions. So yeah, exactly like you said. Now we want to know, what do y'all think?

Grace Hallowell:

Yes. So the public meetings that are coming up, there is one in person and one virtual one because I'm sure, as you know, it is the summertime and a good chunk of our population is no longer in town right now.

David Brower:

That's right.

Grace Hallowell:

But the students make up a very important part of our population. They're living in College Station, so their opinion is very important as well.

David Brower:

That's right. So we've got July 16th at 6:00 PM, we've got an in-person meeting. So just a brief informational about here's what's in this plan, and then a lot of opportunity for feedback. It's going to be at 6:00 PM here at City Hall in the Bush 4141 room. So you can put that on your calendar. We'd love to see people there. The other is the next day. So July 17th at noon, we're going to have a virtual meeting. So we'll get information out about how to join that meeting. But that way, if wherever folks are, whether they're a college student that's living away for the summer, folks just traveling on vacation, we know everybody's summer's busy, can take some time and tune back in if you'd like to. And give us your feedback there as well. To go access the plan, you can go to [cstx.gov/housingplan](https://cstx.gov/housingplan) and the plan will be right there.

So it'll be our goals, strategies, and actions section of the plan. There'll also be an opportunity to look at all the previous public feedback. So if you want to see what survey questions were asked, what did people say, you can read through all that. And then our existing conditions report is still up there. So if folks want to go look and what's going on with housing and College Stations, can go take a look at that as well. And then we'll have a survey to where it's going to be very short. Basically, what do you think of the plan? Do you have any comments? And so we'd love to get people's feedback on that too.

Grace Hallowell:

Yes, lots of opportunities to make your voice heard here, and the website is very important. All of the information is there, like you said, for you to look at your convenience. Is there anything else that you'd like to share?

David Brower:

No, we're excited.

Grace Hallowell:

Yes.

David Brower:

The city's comprehensive plan is the document that's like, who do we want to be as the city? And so one of the things in that comprehensive plan is we want housing that's affordable. And so this housing plan is basically giving concrete actions to make that happen. And so we're excited. We're grateful to the public, grateful to citizens that have given their input so far, and we're just really excited to keep getting that input and to hopefully craft a plan. That's one that's great for the future, and that'll help make housing better and more available for folks.

Grace Hollowell:

Yes. And one more time, what is the website?

David Brower:

Yes, if you go to [cstx.gov/housingplan](https://cstx.gov/housingplan). All one word.

Grace Hollowell:

Very easy.

David Brower:

Yeah.

Grace Hollowell:

Well, thank you so much for joining me today, David.

David Brower:

Well, thank you.

Grace Hollowell:

And that's what's up.