

Chapter 2: Planning Process

A planning process was crafted by the City of Independence and its consultant team to ensure extensive public participation. The techniques included leadership interviews with public officials, private sector leaders and individual property owners, workshops with various advisory committees, and public informational meetings held in the Little Blue Valley and at City Hall. The City Planning Commission and City Council participated in three informational meetings.

The planning process was broken into four major phases of work:

- Phase I – Project Initiation/Data Gathering
- Phase II – Community Visioning and Goal Setting
- Phase III – Concept Plan Alternatives
- Phase IV – Recommended Draft Plan and Action Strategies

The ten-month time frame was initially envisioned for the work. However, completion of the four phases has actually taken more than twelve months. The schedule was delayed to allow the Mid-American Regional Council (MARC), to complete preliminary environmental and preliminary alignment studies for the Little Blue Parkway. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment–Work Process and Schedule (Figure 7) illustrates the time table and the major study checkpoints.

Several special advisory committees were established to assist and guide the study process. These included:

- Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Little Blue Valley Steering Committee (LBVSC)
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The role of these committees was to assist with idea generation, visioning and goal setting, to review goals and plans and provide guidance and direction concerning the preferred Comprehensive Plan and Strategies.

“This is probably as good an example as I’ve seen, even nationally, of consensus planning”

Richard G. Carlisle, Attorney

Figure 7

Little Blue Valley: Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Work Process and Schedule

