

CHAPTER 2

TRENDS, CONDITIONS, AND NEEDS

There are several major trends currently being observed within the City of Victor. Some of these are anticipated to be planning issues for many years to come while others will be resolved through markets responding to supply and demand economics.

POPULATION TRENDS AND IN-MIGRATION

Currently there is a large in-migration to the City of Victor. There are large numbers of people moving into the City from many different locations. This is having the net effect of rapidly diversifying the population. There are many different ethnic groups represented in the population and the City of Victor has a large percentage of minority school children in several area schools. This large demographic shift has presented challenges for the school districts and for government service organizations.

HOUSING TRENDS

Housing has become an issue in some part of the City as the availability of affordable housing for agricultural and service industry workers has been limited. Several agencies have been watching the situation and are currently poised to assist communities that have documented housing deficiencies. There seems to be an abundant supply of single family housing lots in the City at present. There is major concern regarding the over-build of these rural subdivisions as it is unknown what their immediate and long-term effect on groundwater will be. The City has expressed a desire to study this issue in greater depth to assure progressive planning and protect water as a valuable resource.

THE NEED FOR LIVING WAGE JOBS

There is a growing concern in the City about the unavailability of high paying technical jobs. Many of the labor force in the City of Victor that increase their skills through formal education are forced to a location outside the community to find employment. Families feel like they are exporting their children to far away job markets due to a limited professional job market in the county.

Economic development professionals are working to attract new and to grow existing companies that will pay a living wage and allow our local market to take advantage of these highly trained individuals.

TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

Transportation issues have become more of a concern in the City of Victor. Major concerns include road width and congestion in certain areas due to increased traffic. Speed control is also a huge issue within the City.

Subdivision access onto county roads is also a growing concern with City residents concerned for safety at intersections. Control of these accesses is a growing concern to residents as more and more subdivisions have been sprouting up out in the county away from established municipal boundaries. The county has applied for funding to study transportation issues. It is hoped that the cities will be closely involved in assisting the county in this process. This study will begin the Fall of 2005 and findings and the capital improvement plan will need to be integrated into this document at a later date.

SENIORS

The City of Victor is following the national trend of a growing older population. Access to services for an aging population and assuring that issues important to seniors will become an ever more important part of defining social needs. The City of Victor has excellent resources for seniors and seniors have access to Senior Citizen Centers and accompanying programs. Accessibility for those with disabilities is an important part of transitioning aging facilities into complete compliance.

TRENDS IN WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT

The City of Victor has an abundance of water resources within the City. The City of Victor has some of Idaho's earliest water claims and the impact of water on the City is immeasurable. Current water issues, including the adjudication, have the potential to affect the future of all community members. The City of Victor is over an aquifer recharge area. Traditional methods of recharge are being threatened as flood irrigation has been replaced by sprinkler irrigation. Water rights will affect the future of the City of Victor's economy. Concerns over endangered species will also continue to dominate water issues in the City of Victor and the State of Idaho.

TRENDS IN SURROUNDING COUNTIES

The City of Victor is part of a regional economy. What affects sister counties will also have an impact upon our residents. Enhanced transportation and communication access has leveled the playing field in many industries and has tied our economy into a larger whole.

Though Teton County has several sister counties, Bonneville, Fremont, Madison, and Teton County, Wyoming will have the most direct impact upon our way of life over the foreseeable future. There is a general consensus in eastern Idaho that the 3% cap on governmental budget increases is hurting high growth communities.

CITY OF VICTOR COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

The City of Victor Planning and Zoning Commission prepared a City-wide planning survey to gather public attitude and perspective about planning issues in the county. Approximately 115 surveys were returned from all parts of the City and the Area of City Impact.

Highlights of this survey would be the resounding desire of City residents to protect the lifestyle that currently exists in City of Victor.

There are concerns about rapid subdivision development outside of municipal boundaries as well as concern for development of improved transportation facilities. There is also a strong desire to carefully control new growth.

