

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: Community Visioning Statement - Discussion

Meeting Date: April 29, 2026

Prepared by: Rob Patterson, Town Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

No Action – Discussion Only

BACKGROUND:

The Town's General Plan was originally adopted in 1987 and was then comprehensively updated in 2007. The current General Plan is coming up on its 20-year anniversary, and it is time for the community to start working towards the next comprehensive update that will guide the community for the ensuing ~20 years.

With the adoption of the original 1987 General Plan and the 2007 update, the drafting of the Vision Statement and the Guiding Principles was a key component of the process, as the vision serves as the framework to express the community's desired future and defines expectations for what Mammoth Lakes will be like 20-25 years into the future. These expectations should be based on the things residents and businesses value as important today and which should be retained in the future, as well as how the community should evolve and change in response to critical issues that arise that may challenge these values. The vision statement is intended to be a foundational, aspirational declaration that guides all subsequent policies, land use decisions, and infrastructure investments. As such, the drafting of the vision is where the update process begins and needs to be a shared community vision that helps set priorities throughout the planning process and inform decision makers about community values. The vision statements and/or goals from the 2007 General Plan, the 1998 and 1992 revisions of the Vision Statement, and the 1987 General Plan are attached for reference and review.

Creating a community vision will require:

- Extensive and expanded outreach to all members of the community, including public agencies, local full-time and part-time residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders;
- Review of the Town's history to identify past challenges and accomplishments;
- Examination of current data and emerging data trends; and
- Consideration of future issues, challenges, and goals.

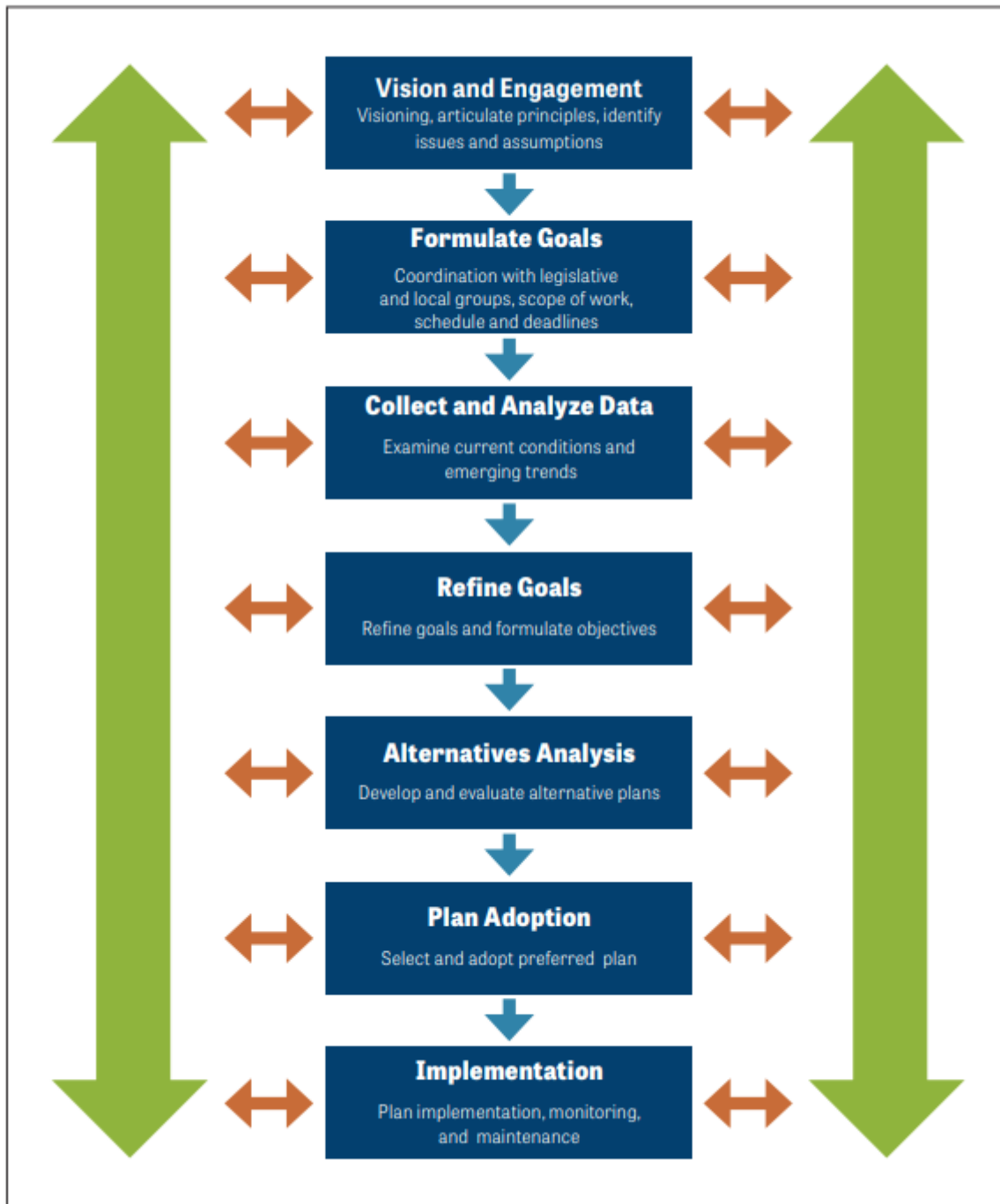
The vision should:

- Articulate the core values and desires of the community as they relate to the General Plan;

- Guide and inform the development of more specific policies later on in the planning process;
- Articulate an image of the future the community wishes to create; and
- Contain a succinct description of the things that the community values.

The comprehensive update of the General Plan will be a multi-year, community-driven process that results in a document that reflects the vision for the community's future. The following flow chart of the General Plan update process highlights how the vision and the subsequent steps to update the General Plan are all inter-connected and serve to inform all aspects of the update process from the initial visioning exercise through implementation.

General Plan Flow Chart



ANALYSIS:

The Community Vision statement, in its current format, dates back to at least the 2007 General Plan amendment. While the statements are generally supportive of a thriving community, they do not take into consideration key elements that have emerged in the last two decades. While a complete rewrite of the Community Vision statements will be a part of the overall General Plan update efforts, it will need to involve significant community input in its development.

The purpose of this preliminary review is for the Town Council to discuss what elements may be missing from the vision statement. This should include acknowledgment of changes that have occurred or are anticipated in the coming years, that may be disruptive to the community. To accomplish this, staff will lead a review of the existing Community Vision statement, facilitating Town Council discussion. The goal will be to document any new elements identified, along with proper wording for the statement. Staff will use these modifications in review of the annual Town Council Strategic Priorities. This work will also be the basis for a future Community Vision statement for the General Plan amendment work to come.

Staff have included some historical documents attached, to show the progression of these statements.

Attachments:

1. 1987 General Plan Goals
2. 1992 Vision Statement
3. 1998 Revision of the Vision Statement
4. 2007 General Plan