Strategic Plan Workshop – Council Questions & Feedback
4-22-2026
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59uzd38HkPo

The following notes summarize questions, feedback, and recommendations provided by the Town Council during the Strategic Planning Workshop presented on April 22, 2026.

General Strategic Plan Feedback

- Overall strong support for the Strategic Plan framework and direction
- Appreciation expressed for depth of work and responsiveness (noted especially for Utilities/water efforts)
- Some concern that certain KPI timelines may be overly ambitious
- Continued interest in transparency and accessibility of data and making information available to the public (especially during budget season)
- Suggestion to spell out acronyms (e.g., ICS, HSEM) for clarity in the final document

Infrastructure, Transportation & Asset Management (D1–D4)

- D1 – Create and integrated asset management and facilities planning system
    - Clarification requested on cemetery mapping (what it entails and how it will be used)
    - Question regarding the inclusion of Cyber Services equipment in this functional area
    - Clarification of the definition of "base facilities"
    - Questions about whether existing/older vehicles will be entered into OpenGov
    - Question on timing for pavement condition assessments
    - Particular interest in ability to track man-hours and operational data

- D2 – Improve infrastructure, asset maintenance, and related operations
    - Aligns with need for improved tracking and service standards
    - Comment on equipment and methods for catch basin maintenance
    - General support for improving data tracking and asset visibility and man hours

- D3 – Improve traffic safety and address traffic congestion
    - Strong support; viewed as high-value and impactful
    - Noted as a useful decision-making tool for Planning and Zoning
    - Emphasis on data being available and transparent
    - Suggestion to consider Economic Development Board / Commission

- D4 – Develop a coordinated utilities, waste, and energy resilience strategy
    - Positive feedback on food waste / composting pilot programs, especially public education (DIY options)
    - Questions and comments regarding solar infrastructure planning:
        - Locations (rooftop vs. ground-mounted)
        - Identification of potential sites
    - Public education & engagement – Consider leveraging examples and videos from other communities
    - General support for forward-looking energy and sustainability planning

Environment, Water & Conservation (E1–E3)

- E1 – Extend access to clean water through monitoring, education, and infrastructure expansion
    - Acknowledgment and appreciation for ongoing work (Utilities Committee, water efforts)

- Questions whether the water testing portal will integrate with State data and how results will be shared with residents and with the Town
- Concern that some deadlines may be ambitious

- E2 – Conserve priority land and expand public stewardship of natural resources
  - Clarification of what counts as "protected land"
  - Need for clearer data and definitions:
    - % conservation land owned by the town, privately owned, or under easement
    - Differentiate between open space and conservation land
  - Suggestion to better define and map conservation categories using GIS
  - Concern that KPI sequencing may be out of order (planning should precede outreach)

- E3 – Integrate sustainability and environmental compliance into municipal operations
  - Viewed as a strong example of cross-department coordination
  - Positive feedback on integrating sustainability into broader Town operations

Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness & Municipal Resilience (F1–F2)

- F1 – Improve emergency communications and fire response readiness
  - Recognition that pre-planning tools could have broader Town use (beyond Fire)
  - Question on whether costs will be included in feasibility analysis

- F2 – Strengthen emergency preparedness, continuity, and critical records protection
  - Strong support for emergency preparedness and training initiatives
  - Clarification on Granite Ridge training
  - Question regarding when the last joint Police/Fire coordinated training occurred (noted as many years ago)
  - Suggestion to define acronyms clearly (ICS, HSEM)
  - Positive feedback on ICS training rollout

Community Character, Recreation, Arts & Culture (G1–G3)

- G1 – Expand inclusive recreation, arts, and community programming
  - Positive feedback on programming (e.g., women's basketball league)

- G2 – Improve, document, and standardize recreation facilities, policies, and user experience
  - Suggestion to add pocket parks and trails into the Strategic Plan / discussion on process
  - Emphasis on evaluating potential future locations for recreational spaces
  - Consider alignment with rail trail efforts
  - Suggestion of adding a farmers' market in coordination with Concerts on the Common / discussion needed to determine feasibility
  - Exploration of an Agricultural committee – would require Council approval and adoption into the Administrative Code
  - Public-private partnerships

- G3 – Preserve heritage, strengthen placemaking, and clarify Town design identity
  - Historic properties list is outdated (~20 years old) – last done as an Eagle Scout project
  - Feedback on KPIs:
    - Lookbook timeline seen as too delayed
    - Desire to accelerate, though staff capacity noted as a constraint
  - Consider incorporating a broader perspective to include resident stories
    - Use local media to highlight community history and stories

- Suggestion to consider engaging the Senior Resource Committee and the Senior Center