

THE SECTOR PLANNING PROCESS IN GENERAL

What is MPC?

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is made up of appointed citizens who volunteer their time to study a wide range of development issues and advise local officials on the best way to guide a community's growth. Planning Commissioner's advice is based upon personal familiarity with the community, information presented by citizens, and the technical information and recommendations provided by the professional planning staff.

The primary consumers of MPC's advice are the Knoxville City Council and the Knox County Commission. The elected members of City Council and County Commission have a threefold impact on the planning process. They can request or initiate planning studies or projects; they have the authority to adopt MPC's plans and recommendations; and they govern the resources often necessary for plan implementation.

What are Sectors and Sector Plans?

A sector is a geographical portion of Knox County defined by the MPC for planning purposes. The Knoxville and Knox County area is divided into twelve sectors. A sector is not defined by the City Limits, so it can contain both City and County areas.

The MPC staff prepares a background report about the sector containing basic planning information about environmental resources, land use, population, transportation, community facilities, and utilities. With public input, the MPC staff drafts a conceptual 15-Year Plan that includes goals, policies and proposals to guide the sector's growth. The focus of the Plan is physical development; consequently, land use, transportation and community facilities are its key elements. The plan will be used on a month to month basis by MPC as the guide to zoning and subdivision decisions. A five-year improvement program will also be prepared, outlining projects to improve roads, parks, schools, and other facilities.

How can I participate in a Sector Plan?

Public participation is necessary for any planning process, but it is especially important for sector plans, because MPC makes decisions based on these plans every month. Citizens, business owners, employers and employees in the sector should participate.

MPC reaches out to the public in multiple ways in preparing a plan. It is important that all citizens, who want to express their concerns or views in identifying issues and in creating and reviewing the proposed plan, have means to do so. The participation methods may include:

- surveys, including both hard copy and on-line surveys
- workshops with small group discussions
- community association meetings
- charettes (where design ideas and plan concepts are sketched)
- public meetings in the community
- MPC, City Council and County Commission public hearings

Press releases about the Sector Plan and the public meetings are sent to local media throughout the process. Mailings and e-mailings to community and business association leaders, and information is posted on the MPC web site: www.knoxmpc.org.

How is a Sector Plan adopted?

The completed Sector Plan is presented to MPC in final draft form. After adoption by MPC, the Sector Plan is presented to City Council and County Commission for adoption

Questions about sector plans can be directed to Comprehensive Planning staff, 215-2500.