

# **INTERGOVERNMENTAL & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The City of Vandalia does not exist in a vacuum. A variety of outside forces affect the future viability of this community. Therefore, regional or intergovernmental cooperation becomes the key to long-term sustainability. The Vandalia-Butler School District provides a starting place for intergovernmental cooperation with Butler Township. Several joint economic development opportunities also exist, as previously discussed. The decisions of the City of Dayton in regards to the Dayton International Airport also become critical to the City of Vandalia.

In addition to intergovernmental issues, several administrative issues affect the future direction of the City. Once the plan is adopted, it will be up to the administration to implement many of the recommendations. Therefore, administrative support of the plan is critical.

## **CITIZEN INPUT**

In individual interviews, City officials and members of Vandalia's business community were asked to identify the intergovernmental issues with adjacent political jurisdictions. The issue most cited was annexation conflicts with Butler Township. Respondents also saw the airport expansion issue with Dayton as a serious concern. Also cited was the need for cooperation and communication among all neighboring communities.

Similarly, focus group participants were asked to describe Vandalia's relationship with surrounding townships and municipalities and indicate what the relationship should or could be. Respondents indicated that the community most interacted with is Butler Township due to its proximity and sharing of schools and other facilities. The focus group felt that the relationship was good, except on the issue of annexation. Other issues between the two communities to consider include the unnecessary duplication of some public services and the discrimination in the use of Vandalia's park and recreational facilities (i.e., gaining permission, paying fees).

Next, the focus group was asked to identify issues affecting the whole region. The airport expansion was the most common answer. Focus group members agreed that the expansion would encourage economic development; however, it was believed that the negative impacts on quality of life such as noise, traffic, and congestion would more than outweigh such benefits.

Focus group members were questioned as to how Vandalia could take advantage of its location in the region. The residents replied that the City was marketing itself well and

should continue to promote itself as a strategic and convenient place to locate business, live, and work.

Focus group respondents were asked how Vandalia would be impacted by the new I-70 / I-75 interchange. The common response was that the interchange would help alleviate traffic and create economic development opportunities at the site. However, they also expressed concern as to how the new interchange would affect businesses at the old interchange location.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

The City of Vandalia is only a small part of the greater Miami Valley region. However, Vandalia's location as a regional transportation center, both highway and air, make it a desirable location for future economic expansion. Several major regional employers are located in the City of Vandalia. It is in the interest of the entire region to promote continued economic development in this area.

Butler Township and the City of Vandalia have the opportunity to create a strong alliance. However, the current relationship between these two jurisdictions is strained. Annexation has become a sore issue. Butler Township continues to fight annexation petitions. The City should set up a forum for discussing future annexation plans. If annexation is not feasible in certain areas, the City should pursue intergovernmental agreements that allow revenue sharing so both jurisdictions may benefit.

Both jurisdictions will also be affected by a number of other development issues. The first is the construction of the new interchange. The interchange will be located in both jurisdictions. Currently Butler Township is working with a consultant to develop design guidelines and market sites for commercial development. Therefore, joint planning becomes crucial in this area. With joint land use and transportation planning, both jurisdictions can increase the development potential and attractiveness of this new corridor.

The City of Dayton International Airport has a huge impact on the City of Vandalia and other surrounding jurisdictions. The City must work with the airport to mitigate the adverse impacts on the City of Vandalia. Currently, the City of Dayton has not been a willing participant in mitigation discussions. The City of Vandalia should begin to form alliances with other communities affected by the Dayton International Airport and begin to develop a regional forum for discussion of issues related to the airport's proposed expansion.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Set up a forum for discussing annexation issues.
2. Pursue intergovernmental agreements that allow revenue sharing.

3. Undertake joint planning with Butler Township in the new interchange area.  
Coordinate design standards.
4. Form alliances with other communities affected by the Airport.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

After the Comprehensive Plan is completed, City Council and the administration will be responsible for implementing the recommendations. Many of the recommendations will require capital improvements or changes in existing regulations and procedures. All departments will play a role in implementation. However, the Service Department will be the key administrative implementer of many of the recommendations. All departments should work together to ensure that the plan is implemented consistently.

Once the plan is adopted, it should be promoted to obtain local support. The plan is a dynamic document that also must be regularly reviewed and updated. It is recommended that the Planning Commission and Administration review the plan at least every five years. If Planning Commission acts in a manner contrary to the goals, policies, objectives and recommendations an amendment to the Plan should be required. This ensures full public knowledge of the actions of Planning Commission.

When new members are appointed to the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals, a training packet should be distributed that contains a copy of the Comprehensive Plan. The boards and commissions in the City could also benefit from regular training sessions that detail policies, procedures, and general conduct.

To maximize citizen participation in the planning process and other municipal issues, a citizen's academy should be developed. This would prepare individuals to take positions on various boards and commissions as well as provide a forum for discussion of community issues.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Coordinate efforts across departments to ensure the Comprehensive Plan is implemented.
2. Promote the Plan to obtain support.
3. Provide regular training sessions for Planning Commission and the BZA.
4. Review the Plan every 5 years and update as needed.
5. Develop a citizen's academy.
6. Update the demographic information and adjust the population projections when the 2000 Census data becomes available.