

Summary Report:

Listening Session with GF/EGF Chamber (02/25/21)

East Grand Forks Land Use Plan Update

Updated 04/19/21

1. Summary

The Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce (<https://www.gochamber.org>) is the voice of businesses in the GF/EGF Region, working to create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing quality of life in the region. The Chamber works in partnership with other organizations to accomplish its mission and goals, and serves as a catalyst to ensure the GF/EGF region remains focused on the future, embraces change, and drives growth.

On Thursday February 25, 2021, members of the consultant team presented at the East Grand Forks Minnesota Intergovernmental Retreat organized by the Chamber of Commerce. The invitation was extended to the team through the efforts of Barry Wilfahrt, President of the Chamber of Commerce and member of the plan's Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The annual event, an important opportunity to connect with area business, political and community leaders, included updates on key projects, upcoming investments, and legislative initiatives from business partners, elected representatives, and business and educational institutions. The meeting was attended by more than twenty leaders and representatives, joining in-person and remotely.

2. Meeting Activities

Updates to Participants

The project team provided an update and description to participants about the Land Use Plan Update's purpose, goals and methods. An illustrated presentation was used to cover the following topics:

- » What is a land use plan? Overview of the project
- » Developing a vision for the plan
- » How are we hearing from the EGF community?
- » How participants can add their voice and ideas

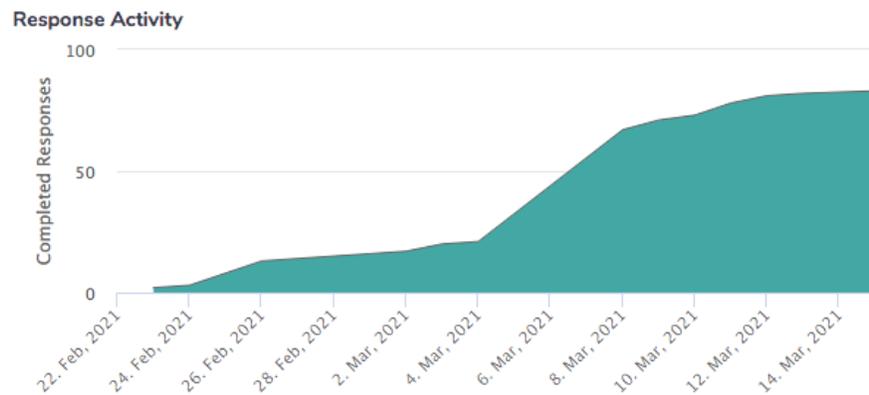
- Introduction to the plan's engagement tools
- » Questions from attendees

Invitation to Participate

Meeting participants were invited to use the project tools to add their comments and ideas to the plan. An invitation (with links to the comment tools) was sent to Chamber staff for distribution to attendees and their mailing list.

3. Results Obtained

Chamber staff added information about the Land Use Plan Update to their publication of Friday March 5, and distributed links to the engagement tools to their membership. The resulting publicity greatly increased participation in the plan's engagement tools:



4. Next Steps

- » The project team will continue to work with the Chamber to disseminate news about the Land Use Plan Update and to invite their members to review the document as it approaches completion

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